

Blast inside pyramid injures 2

CAIRO (R) — An explosion inside one of the Egyptian pyramids injured two workers Tuesday and police detained 35 people for questioning, security sources said. There were conflicting versions of what caused the blast inside the burial chamber at about noon (1000 GMT). Security sources said a small bomb had exploded but Interior Ministry officials said materials used to clean stonework were ignited by an electrical short circuit. A group of Russian tourists was outside the Pyramid of Chephren, second largest of the three pyramids of Giza on the outskirts of Cairo, when the blast occurred, but none of them were injured. In Bonn, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak insisted Tuesday his country was no more wracked by terrorism than any other and assured rich German tourists that Egypt was a safe place to visit. "What's going on in Egypt now happens all over the world," Mr. Mubarak told reporters after talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. "You have no cause to worry. The country is stable. ... you can come to Egypt without worry, and you can move about freely."

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Italian finance minister resigns

ROME (R) — Italian Finance Minister Franco Reviglio resigned Tuesday after magistrates warned him he was being investigated on suspicion of corruption, his spokesman said. Milan magistrates had warned Mr. Reviglio earlier Tuesday that he was suspected of receiving stolen goods while he was chairman of the state energy firm ENI from 1983 to 1989. The spokesman said Mr. Reviglio, a Socialist, resigned in a letter to Prime Minister Giuliano Amato. The magistrates' warning to Mr. Reviglio follows revelations by his successor at ENI, Gabriele Cagliari, that the firm made illegal payments to the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties. Mr. Reviglio at the time denied any involvement. Mr. Reviglio became the fifth minister in Mr. Amato's government to step down after official warning about investigations into Italy's growing corruption scandal.

Lira steals the show, page 7; Amato to stay on, page 8

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Israel seals off West Bank

Entire Palestinian populace under siege after 2 policemen found killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Unknown assailants shot to death two Israeli traffic police Tuesday, and the Israeli occupation authorities struck back by barring the West Bank's one million Palestinians from entering Israel.

Police said they had no leads to the assailants but added there was no doubt militants were responsible.

Israel ordered the indefinite closure of the West Bank from midnight Tuesday during an emergency meeting of the inner security cabinet. The government ordered the Gaza Strip closed Sunday.

The pre-dawn killing at a junction near Hadera in Israel's heartland appeared to escalate a bloody wave of Palestinian attacks that has claimed 13 Israeli lives this month.

It provoked a public outcry that threatened to weaken Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a time when he is defending the U.S.-sponsored peace process against

demands from Israeli hardliners to scrap it.

Mr. Rabin went on Israel Television to tell his people: "I understand the pain, the worry, the rage. We are indeed going through a difficult period of escalating Palestinian terrorism."

Mr. Rabin announced he had ordered the army reinforced in the occupied territories, and added:

"From tomorrow, there will be no Palestinians from the (occupied) territories on the sovereign territory of Israel until further notice."

Palestinians, 26 of whose people have been killed this month, said the tough measure of sealing the occupied territories and barring 120,000 Palestinians from their jobs in Israel would damage peace prospects.

Police said highway patrolmen Mordechai Yisrael, 35, and Daniel Hazut, 32, were found

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The bodies of two Israeli policemen lie in front of their car near the town of Hadera (AFP photo)

Jordan to seek more active European role

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is expected to emphasise the need for Israel's adherence to U.N. Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy and urge a larger European role in the Middle East peace process during talks with a European Community (EC) delegation here Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said the Kingdom would also urge fresh European intervention to bring about Israeli implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, which will make it "much easier" for the resumption of the stalled peace process.

Resolution 799 calls on Israel to immediately repatriate the Palestinians it expelled on Dec. 17 to South Lebanon. The Jewish state's refusal to comply has led to the stalemate in the peace process, with the Palestinians re-

fusing to resume talks with Israel until the nearly 400 expellees stranded in South Lebanon are repatriated.

The EC "troika" — representing the immediate past, serving and future presidencies of the 12-nation community — arrived here late Tuesday, launching a Middle East mission widely seen as an effort to revive the stalled peace process.

The delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Willy Claes of Belgium, which now holds the rotating EC presidency, is scheduled to meet Dr. Abu Jaber and other Jordanian and Palestinian officials and peace negotiators.

The team includes Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen of Denmark and British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg in addition to European Commissioner for External Relations Hans van der Broek. It will also visit Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker are expected to meet the delegation before its departure Wednesday afternoon. Schedules for the meetings were not final Tuesday.

The EC officials will also hold talks with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political department, and Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator. The two arrived here from Damascus Tuesday.

"We (the EC) would like to extend as much support as possible to help the (Middle East) peace process achieve its objectives," said the Belgian ambassador to Jordan, Pierre de Muelenaere, whose country is coordinating the EC mission in its capacity as the serving community president.

Dr. Abu Jaber, who attended this week's Arab coordination meeting which decided to defer the Arab response to the joint American-Russian invitation to

resume the peace talks in Washington on April 20, said Jordan would present its position to the EC delegation and reaffirm its approach to the peace process.

"We entered the peace process in good faith with the objective of achieving a settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and 425 and international legitimacy," he said, noting that the essence of the resolutions is Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories.

"We will try to impress upon the Europeans that a Middle East peace settlement has to be based on the U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy, and nothing short of that is acceptable," the minister told the Jordan Times.

"We will also delve into the

(Continued on page 5)

Washington confident peace talks will resume as planned

WASHINGTON (Agency) — The United States said Monday that after talks with Palestinians, it was encouraged the Middle East peace talks would resume on April 20 as planned.

"All in all, we met with the Palestinians for over four hours of talks over the weekend. Consultations were useful and productive. We and the Russian co-sponsors are encouraged by the prospects of resuming the ninth round of negotiations on April 20th," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

The four hours of meetings included a 40-minute one-on-one discussion Friday between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini and another 30-minute session between the two men Saturday.

Other talks involved the Palestinians, other members of the U.S. "peace team" and representatives of Russia, which is co-sponsor of the peace negotiations with the United States.

Mr. Boucher said that after the meetings Mr. Christopher "sent messages to the parties and others in the region expressing the importance of making progress in the Middle East talks and our expectations that the talks will soon resume."

The Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks said Monday in Amman it rejected a U.S. offer of new assurances and confidence-building measures if they resume negotiations.

Spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said a package of "conditional" concessions, including Israel's promise to stop expulsions, was made by Mr. Christopher during the Washington weekend talks.

The package is linked to Palestinian acceptance to attend what would be the ninth round of peace talks.

Little shift expected in foreign policy, page 4

No 'secrets' revealed in Cabinet-House session

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday downplayed the importance of the secret session which the House held with the government Monday saying that neither the topics that were discussed nor what was said about them warranted secrecy.

"There was no reason for secrecy," Deputy Fakhri Kawa told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

"Nothing that was said exceeded what is already public knowledge," said Mr. Kawa, whose view was shared by other deputies contacted by the Jordan Times.

The four-hour behind-the-door-meeting discussed the government's policy on the peace process and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Shabab Al Nafir Al Islami case and the delay in the completion of the Amman Jerash Highway.

Sources from the House said that Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker reiterated to deputies Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive Middle East peace on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the return of all Arab territories occupied since 1967, confirming that Jordan would not go into separate peace with the Jewish state.

The sources quoted the prime

minister as saying that Jordan would not speak for the Palestinians or act as a substitute to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinians will decide for themselves and Jordan will remain committed to its general principles which are based on legitimacy, one deputy quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister reportedly informed deputies that Jordan had not accepted the "agenda for peace" agreement reached by Jordanian and Israeli negotiators during the sixth round of the peace talks in September last year because it did not include points

(Continued on page 5)

House thinks let bygones be bygones, but Shbeilat, Qarrash think otherwise

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One of the last issues tackled by the Lower House of Parliament in its final days in office was arguably the most controversial that the lawmakers faced since their election in November 1989: The arrest, trial and sentencing of two of their colleagues on what amounted to sedition charges.

Cries were plenty for Jordan's 11th Parliament, and it could have done without the controversy, which, many deputies believe, was one of the inevitable hicups of the democratisation process and is thus best forgotten and buried.

By and large, those deputies indicated that they believed that the affair was a closed file with little implications for the demo-

cratisation process.

"These things happen everywhere," said one deputy, in what summed up the opinion of many of his colleagues. "After all, when there is a fast pace of democratisation in a society and apparatus long unused to democracy and its workings, it is only natural that such cases occur."

"The best course is to let the past rest after learning the lessons from it rather than trying to go back and revive painful episodes," said the deputy.

Needless to say this view is not shared by the two deputies: Leith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash. Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash, both independent members of the House advocating their own distinct brand of political Islam, have argued since their release that their trial and conviction was the most important in

recent political life in Jordan.

The two, who were accused of leading an underground group with the objective of toppling the monarchy and installing a caliphate-style theocracy, were handed down stiff jail sentences in November but released after a royal amnesty pardoned them.

They demanded their "right to be heard" and pressed the House for a judicial or parliamentary inquiry into the case, which, they asserted, was fabricated.

The two deputies also demanded that the government present a "comprehensive" report on the affair to Parliament, which could then institute a high-level inquiry, leaving the possibility open for the "culprits" to be brought to book.

It was no coincidence that the

(Continued on page 5)

U.S., Britain said to shift policy on Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that President Saddam Hussein must leave power before sanctions against Iraq can be lifted, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported Tuesday.

Reporting from the United Nations, the BBC World Service said diplomatic sources have confirmed the policy change, although there has been no formal announcement of it.

The BBC did not identify the diplomatic sources.

From now on, the joint policy will be to insist that Iraq fully comply with all U.N. resolutions. At the same time, the Security Council has decided to maintain its sweeping sanctions against Iraq," the BBC said.

British Officials Tuesday shifted away from an earlier commitment made by Prime Minister John Major in 1991 to maintain U.N. sanctions against Iraq until President Saddam leaves office.

But a Foreign Office spokeswoman made clear Britain's tough Iraqi policy — that sanctions would not be lifted until Iraq complied with all U.N. resolutions — had not changed and would not change whatever government was in power in Baghdad.

In Washington, however, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher denied any easing of U.S. policy toward President Saddam.

"There has been no softening and no relenting," Mr. Christopher told a senate panel. "We have not softened our position."

He said the only tactical change adopted by the Clinton administration was to try to ensure the ouster of not only President Saddam but also those in line to succeed him.

"We want to ensure his departure from power," Mr. Christopher said.

In outlining U.S. policy objec-



Atef Btoush
No changes planned to election law
— Btoush

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Atef Al Btoush Tuesday affirmed that the government had not decided to introduce any changes to the parliamentary elections law.

Mr. Btoush said drafting or preparing a temporary or new elections law was done usually by the government which supervises elections, since it is the one which has the authority to update and modernise legislation in a way that suits the conditions prevailing at the time of elections.

Any new elections law, the minister said, should take all social and political developments into consideration, adding that the government supervising the elections process was the one most fit to assess such developments.

He said the current elections law, from the point of viewpoint of many observers, meets the needs of the status quo and the need to benefit from former experiences in the field and introduce few amendments that might address some controversial issues.

Mr. Btoush described the relation between the legislative authority and the current and former governments as excellent "when compared to what was accomplished of achievements that pushed democracy forward

(Continued on page 5)

41 militants, soldiers slain in Algeria battle

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces killed 23 Muslim militants who had killed 18 soldiers in an attack on a military barracks last week, the official APS news agency said on Tuesday, quoting the paramilitary gendarmerie command.

Two of the 23 were killed at the weekend and another 12 are being hunted, the gendarmerie said.

The men attacked Bouguzel barracks, 100 kilometres south of Algiers, on March 22, the eve of the feast of Eid Al Fitr while the troops were breaking their fast.

"The attackers, who wanted to steal arms held in the armaments magazine, benefited from the complexity of four servicemen — two sub-officers and two soldiers — to get into the barracks," the gendarmerie said.

Inside the barracks, six "terrorists" — the term used to describe Muslim fundamentalists — "provided the terrorists with military uniforms. They assassinated four

guards with knives and took their arms.

"The duty officer and his deputy suffered the same fate. Afterwards, they (the attackers) gave the signal to 29 other terrorists who entered the barracks with two soldier accomplices in a military vehicle," the gendarmerie said.

The attackers killed two soldiers in the communications room and destroyed the equipment before heading to the arms depot.

"After the alert, the attackers retreated firing in all directions. Before leaving the barracks they carried out a veritable carnage: 10 servicemen were coldly assassinated and 12 others wounded in the room where they were surprised as they broke their fast."

"The assailants fled, taking with them arms taken from the soldiers on guard. A truck and two vans waited for them outside," APS quoted the gendarmerie as saying.

Mitterrand appoints Balladur's cabinet

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday appointed a centre-right cabinet with Gaullist Alain Juppe as foreign minister and centrist Francois Leotard and Edmond Alphandery holding the defence and economics portfolios.

The Socialist head of state approved a list of ministers proposed by new conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, the president's office announced.

Three of the new cabinet members received the senior rank of minister of state: Mr. Leotard, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a Gaullist, and centrist Simone Veil, given a new portfolio combining housing, social and urban affairs.

Gaullist Nicolas Sarkozy was appointed budget minister and government spokesman, and centrist leader Pierre Mehaaignerie received the justice portfolio.

Centre-right European Parliamentarian Alain Lamassoure was named junior minister for Euro-

pean affairs.

Senate Speaker Rene Monroy, one of a stream of centre-right leaders who visited the new premier, told reporters: "I hope France will be governed from the centre. We are working on it."

Mr. Mitterrand chose Mr. Balladur after the centre-right Union for France (UPF) won 484 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly in a two-round general election completed Sunday.

Newspapers unanimously said the new "cohabitation" had got off to a good start with the soft-spoken premier pledging to seek consensus despite his overwhelming majority in parliament.

"He is a man of common sense and caution who does not like confrontation and believes conflicts can be solved without a clash," said Marie-France Garaud, a former colleague.

Little shift expected in foreign policy, page 4

Damascus talks give a shot in the Palestinian arm

From Wafa Amer in Damascus

TWO ELEMENTS stood out at the conclusion of this week's meeting here of the four Arab parties engaged in peace talks with Israel: A more or less united Arab position and strategy, and a shot in the arm for the Palestinians wary of Israeli efforts to cut piecemeal deals with its Arab neighbours.

On the first count, according to political observers, the meeting raised to the challenge and produced a united Arab position to withstand the test that was implicit in the very fact that the next

round of bilateral talks would be the first under the Clinton administration.

On the second count, the acceptance of a six-point formula proposed by the Palestinians to break the stalemate in the peace process was seen as strengthening the Palestinian negotiating position and a boost for the mainstream Palestinian leadership which is fighting hardline, calls to withdraw from the peace talks.

While reiterating their commitment to the peace process, the Arab foreign ministers unanimously decided to postpone responding to invitations to attend the ninth round of peace talks

scheduled for April 20 to allow Israel to remove obstacles impeding the resumption of the negotiations.

In a bid to pressure the U.S. to achieve Israeli concessions on the crisis of Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon and to respect the terms of reference of the peace process, the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) kept the door open and justified floating their final decision on participating in the peace talks by saying that more time was needed to study the outcome of further contacts with the cosponsors

of the peace process.

"The ministers have decided to maintain an open coordination meeting awaiting the results of ongoing consultations and contacts between concerned Arab parties and the cosponsors of the peace process, aiming at removing the obstacles Israel placed in the path of peace," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said, reading from a joint communiqué drafted after the two-day meetings.

He said the foreign ministers will meet again at a later date in Damascus "to take the suitable decision."

This was also their response to American letters

sent to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon on first day of the Damascus meeting urging Arabs to accept the cosponsors' invitations to attend the April 20 peace talks in Washington in exchange for American promises "to take practical measures and steps" in the peace process.

According to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, the contents of the letter include American reiteration of the terms of reference of the peace process, and its recognition that there are obstacles impeding the resumption of the talks.

In the meantime, Arab (Continued on page 5)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visits the interior surgical facilities of the Orbis Operational Plane at Amman Civil Airport. The team that is performing eye surgeries during their 3-week stay. (Photo by George Crystal)

Queen visits Project Orbis plane where team performs eye surgeries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visited the Orbis Operational Plane at Amman Civil Airport. Project Orbis is an international, humanitarian organisation dedicated to fighting blindness and promoting peaceful cooperation among nations worldwide. It offers three-week training programmes to countries at the invitation of their governments and eye doctors. During the first two weeks of the group's visit to Amman, surgeries will be performed on board the plane. The Orbis team will also be working in close cooperation with King Hussein Medical Centre, Al Bashir Hospital, and Jordan University Hospital. The team comprises doctors and nurses from 10 different countries, whose mission is to teach new techniques and exchange skills and ideas with the ophthalmic community in Jordan. Each Orbis programme lasts for three months. The team has already performed two operations and is expected to perform a few more prior to its departure in two weeks.

If 'obstacles' stay, Arabs will not go to round 9

Arabs want Israeli commitment to end expulsion policies

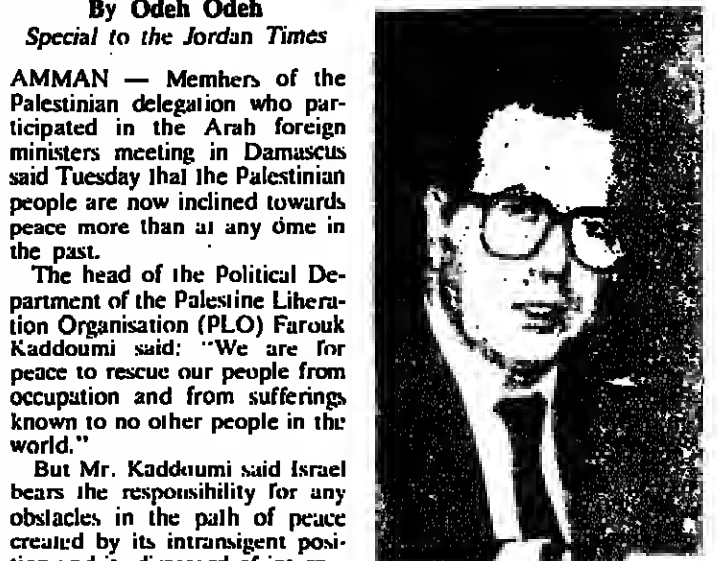
By Mariam M. Shahan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The four Arab parties to the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel will not go to round nine, scheduled to begin April 20, if "obstacles to peace" are not removed before the round begins, said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat upon his return from the Damascus meeting of foreign ministers and peace negotiators. The coordination efforts of the four Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks came to a turning point this week when Arab parties agreed to postpone a decision to attend round nine of the peace talks at the Damascus meeting of foreign ministers and peace negotiators of the respective countries, said Dr. Erekat. "Damascus was a turning point and I believe the U.S. and Israel miscalculated the likelihood of a common Arab position vis-a-vis the peace process," Dr. Erekat told the Jordan Times Tuesday. "After an upcoming round of consultations between Arab delegations and Washington, we will return to Damascus and we will decide either to go or not go to round nine," he said, adding that "in any case our decision will be to go together or to refrain from going together."

Coordination in Damascus forms strong basis for action

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Palestinian delegation who participated in the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus said Tuesday that the Palestinian people are now inclined towards peace more than at any time in the past. The head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Farouk Kaddoumi said: "We are for peace to rescue our people from occupation and from sufferings known to no other people in the world." But Mr. Kaddoumi said Israel bears the responsibility for any obstacles in the path of peace created by its intransigent position and its disregard of international legitimacy. Praising the level of coordination among the Arab foreign ministers at the Damascus meeting, Mr. Kaddoumi said such cooperation constitutes a strong basis for collective Arab action in the future. Chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said the Palestinians have a clear-cut position. "Rabin will then become the Israeli Prime Minister who managed to flunk both security and peace," said Dr. Erekat referring to the increasing violence between Palestinians and Israelis in the occupied territories. The repressive measures used by the Israeli military in the occupied territories have not worked in breaking Palestinian determination in the last 40-plus years, say the Palestinian negotiators. "Mr. Rabin knows that the methods of repression being practiced do not work; he knows that this does not mean more security for Israel," said Dr. Erekat.



Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the Palestinians have a clear-cut position. "Rabin will then become the Israeli Prime Minister who managed to flunk both security and peace," said Dr. Erekat referring to the increasing violence between Palestinians and Israelis in the occupied territories.

Stone map 'discovery' stirs up controversy

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A stone map of the Wadi Rum area, dating back to 3500-3000 B.C., is said to have been found in the southern desert of Jordan. Edoardo Borzatti, a professor of palaeontology at the University of Florence, said he first saw the 8,000 kg stone in 1978, and after 15 years of study, he is now 90 per cent sure that it is a map. But, Fawzi Zayadin, an official at the Department of Archaeology, said the department does not recognize that stone to be a map. The five squares metres stone map represents an area of 2,500-3,000 square kilometres, said Dr. Borzatti. It has 147 holes, which Professor Borzatti said, denote 147 villages. The lines drawn on the stone depict Wadis in Jordan, which have been located, he explained. Thus far, 112 of the villages have been identified, affirmed Professor Borzatti. Objects found in the villages; the climatic conditions and carbon dating (a scientific method used to determine the age of an organic object) all indicate that these villages existed between 3500-3000 B.C. Dr. Borzatti hypothesizes that the stone was carved by nomads. Until recently, Dr. Borzatti said, nomads took money from peasants in return for not raiding them. He believes therefore that this stone map was used by the nomads to delineate the area they controlled. Still, Dr. Borzatti emphasises that these explanations are a hypothesis. "I am not sure of the meaning, it is a hypothesis. But I am sure it is a map."

Tourism faces ups and downs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tourism in Jordan is experiencing its ups and downs these days, say public officials and representatives of the tourism industry. According to Agaba Tourism Department Director Mahmoud Hilalat, during March the port city was visited by about 8,000 foreign tourists who disembarked at Aqaba from eight ocean liners. Mr. Hilalat said most of these tourists also made side trips to Wadi Rum and Petra during their stay. During the recent 'Eid Al Fitr' holiday, he said, Aqaba's 33 hotels were booked to capacity with thousands of Jordanians who came to spend their vacation by the sea. Mr. Hilalat added that another 3,350 Jordanian visitors spent the holiday in tent camps set up along the southern coast of Aqaba. But according to local travel and tour offices in Amman, domestic tourism in Jordan still leaves something to be desired. Petra Tours and International Traders, two Amman-based agencies, told the Jordan Times that despite various efforts by the Tourism Ministry and local tour offices, it is only during the public holidays, that Aqaba, for example, is crowded with visitors. Now that the 'Eid Al Fitr' holiday is over, the number of visitors to the seaside resort has been reduced significantly, they both said. Still Mr. Hilalat was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, recently, as saying that the number of Finnish tourists to Aqaba has again picked up, with groups arriving aboard chartered flights from Helsinki at the rate of 12 to 170 visitors per week. When asked to comment on the events in Egypt and the attacks on tourists there, tour offices here said the recent developments have severely affected tourism in Jordan as well. Tourists who had booked package tours to Egypt and Jordan have already cancelled their trips to the two countries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Health minister leaves for Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh Tuesday left for Cairo to participate in the meetings of the 17th session of the Arab health ministers council which will start there Wednesday. The council will discuss health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, Palestine's request to join the world health organisation (WHO), and means of countering attempts to admit Israel into the International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It is also scheduled to discuss issues related to combating drug addiction.

Minister receives visiting U.N. panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmud Al Sharif received in his office Tuesday a visiting delegation from the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF). Mr. Sharif discussed with the delegation population-related issues in the Arab World and preparations to hold a seminar on population to be held Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Agriculture minister visits Al Hassan station

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh Tuesday visited Al Hassan Agriculture Station in the Baqa'a area where he inspected its various facilities. Dr. Khasawneh was also familiarised with agricultural research conducted by the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) at the station. The minister was accompanied on the visit by Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Arah and Director of NCARTT Mahmoud Al Dwiri.

NHF rural life panel discusses plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The higher technical committee of the Rural Life Development Project, which is carried out by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NIHF) held a meeting at NIHF headquarters Tuesday. Participants at the meeting, who represent seven ministries and various institutions concerned in the development process, discussed the annual plans for developing rural areas. The project is currently carried out in eight villages in various parts of Jordan, thus benefiting about 15,000 people directly or indirectly. During the current year, the projects will be expanded to include four more villages.

Society receives JD 20,000 from Canada

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped Princess Majda Ra'd Tuesday received a cheque for JD 20,000 as a contribution from the Canadian government to be used in supporting the society's mobile clinic project.

Food security conference to open Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised conference on food security in the Arab World will open in Amman April 4 with the participation of several Arab countries. The conference, which is organised by the Arab Federation of Food Industries in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association, will discuss eight working papers on the processing of dairy products, fodder, tomato paste, carbonated beverages, cereals, poultry and oil. Three specialised seminars on the role of the agricultural engineers in development will be held on the sidelines of the conference. Delegations representing Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco will participate in the conference. Also on the sidelines of the conference, will be an exhibition of agricultural products and processed food.

Geologists plan regional conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive bureau of the Arab Geologists Federation held a meeting in Amman Tuesday under the chairmanship of federation president and head of the Jordanian Geologists Association Issa Abu Taha. The bureau decided to set up a committee to follow up preparations for the Middle East Geologists Conference which will be held in Amman in 1994. The committee comprises representatives of Jordanian universities, ministries and private sector institutions.

Philanthropists distribute aid to needy

AMMAN (Petra) — Human Appeal International has distributed 20 tonnes of foodstuffs to the needy in Jordan to help fight poverty in the Kingdom. The philanthropic group also distributed new clothes to orphaned children and needy families on the occasion of the 'Eid Al Fitr Feast. Director of the group's office in Jordan Adham Agel said the assistance was distributed to more than 3,000 needy families in Irbid, the Jordan Valley, Ajloun, Mafrq, Jerash, Amman, Zarqa, Tafleh, Karak and Aqaba.

Ministry plans for municipal staff training

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat Tuesday said that the ministry plans to set up three centres in Amman, Irbid and Karak during 1993 to organise training courses for municipalities staff.

The minister told the Jordan Times that the projected centres were designed to offer periodic training to mayors, accountants, engineers technicians and other municipal council staff around the country.

In preparation for this project, Dr. Tubeishat said the ministry is organising a symposium in Amman on April 12 for heads of municipal and village councils to discuss the project and other matters related to local council activities.

Several working papers dealing with council operations and services will be reviewed by the symposium, which will be organised in cooperation with the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB).

Asked about the removal of the present Rusafa garbage dumping site in Zarqa governorate, which has been the cause of public complaints, Dr. Tubeishat said the ministry, in cooperation with the Amman Municipality, plans to temporarily move the present site two kilometres south of the town.

The ministry, in the meantime, is studying prospects of finding other sites away from the town, Dr. Tubeishat added. He said contacts are underway with foreign firms to discuss the prospect of exploiting part of the garbage to produce fertilisers or other useful matter from the refuse.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
 - Exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Sa'eda Al Bitar Ghanem at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery, 1st Circle, opposite the Iraqi Embassy.
 - Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Badana Art Gallery.
- THEATRE**
 - Play entitled "The Death of Thebes" at the Royal Cultural Centre's main theatre at 8 p.m.
- POETRY RECITAL**
 - Arabic poetry recital by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, at 5 p.m. at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City.
- SEMINAR**
 - English language discussion group about "Second Language Acquisition" at 530 p.m. at the British Council.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

The Friends of Archaeology Society and **The Italian Embassy** are co-sponsoring a lecture given by **Dr. Michele Piccirillo O.F.M.** "The Mosaics of the Umayyad Period in Jordan" Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. at the FOA Centre. Dr. Piccirillo is the recipient of the 1993 Friends of Archaeology Annual Award for Service, Merit and Achievement. A reception will follow the lecture.

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL
The Amman Baccalaureate School seeks applications from qualified and experienced full-time teachers for the following vacancies in August 1993:
1. Teacher of English, with a strong background in literature, to teach Middle or Senior School grades. Experience of IGCE or other international curricula will be an advantage.
2. Drama Teacher, to take classes in the Middle School. The successful candidate will be able to develop a programme reflecting both Arab-Jordanian and international drama.
3. Music Teacher, to teach IGCE level. The successful candidate will have a background in, and experience of, "Western Music" as well as Arab-Jordanian music.
Application forms may be obtained from the school's reception desk, phone 845572, 847191 and should be returned by Monday 5, April 1993.

Antiquities office authorised to excavate near Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers has authorised the Department of Antiquities to utilise a plot of land around the ancient Nabatean city of Petra for archaeological excavations. Department Director General Safwat Telleh told the Jordan Times that 264,000 dunams around Petra will be considered an archaeological reserve and registered solely in the department's name. The decision, taken earlier this month, does not in any way encroach upon the rights of the local tribes in the Wadi Musa region, said Dr. Telleh, adding that they will be allowed to continue to grow cereals on this land indefinitely. He said the registration of the land will help facilitate the department's ongoing excavation programmes and its plan to protect the environment within the Petra region from pollution and man's harmful activities. Dr. Telleh said the Council of Ministers' decision prohibits the building of homes or planting of trees in the now restricted zone. He added that it also prohibits private or public organisation to dispose with, buy or sell this land under any circumstances. Dr. Telleh said the cabinet ruling calls for the bedouin tribe settlement known as Sa'idin together with its police station to be moved out of the restricted zone.



The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents **THE ORCHESTRA** of the **NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY**. Kifah Fakhouri, conductor. Aram Zarsanis, concertmaster. In Concert Saturday, 3 April 1993 - 8:00 p.m. Al Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium - University of Jordan. The program includes orchestral pieces by Stamitz, Mozart, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, as well as highlights from the musicals Evita and Les Miserables. Tickets, for JD 5 and 3, are available at: - The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026 - Ribani Stores, Tel. 693775 - Babiche, Tel. 661322 - Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100 - The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620.

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The obliquity of secrecy

JORDANIANS SHOULD ask each individual candidate in the next Parliamentary elections to pledge not to support the convening of any secret sessions. Secrecy is an anathema to democracy. And if Jordanians are serious in their quest for democracy, they should fight secrecy.

We fail to understand how the Lower House decides to hold a closed session to discuss a case, that of deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yaqoub Qarash, that was held open at the military court.

When that court, at the height of the proceedings, decided to hold a secret session to hear a "secret" witness, Jordanians at large, including deputies and lawyers, protested. During the past four years of democratic experimentation, the House held a number of closed sessions that, as had been reported later, did not warrant secrecy.

The question thus persists: Why secret sessions? If, as some defenders of secrecy contend, closed sessions are necessary to hide certain sensitive issues from the public, presumably because ordinary people would react inappropriately to information disclosed, then that is an insult to the people. Deputies — by definition the closest to peoples' hearts and minds — should know that people are aware of most of the secrets whether discussed at secret sessions or among tight-lipped officials. Furthermore secrets that are not fully comprehended by the people or which are told second hand tend to grow into rumours or overblown stories. But if secret sessions are held to allow deputies and ministers the liberty to indulge in nasty exchanges and accusations or to settle accounts, then closed sessions are a betrayal of the people because they deny them the opportunity to hold their deputies accountable for what they say and do.

Secrets, normally, involve one of two things: security matters or illegal behaviour. Issues that concern the security of the nation are always discussed behind closed doors. But the issues that were discussed in the House on Monday cannot be classified as national security secrets.

It is, therefore, the duty of every Jordanian, especially every voter, to impress on the next Parliament to put an end to this attitude and to ensure that information that concerns the public is not discussed behind closed doors.

In many democracies, the practice is to hold closed sessions for parliamentary committees that might wish to examine secret documents or hear evidence by security or senior government officials on matters related to national security. But the body that represents the whole population rarely sits in a closed session, because whatever deputies discuss falls in the domain of public knowledge. The people have the right to hear all discussions that affect their lives; they should not be denied that basic right.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE LATEST developments in the occupied Arab territories and the upsurge of the intifada were signs of a complete transformation of the concept of Arab resistance, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that the Land Day anniversary, which was marked Tuesday, coincides with an escalation of resistance activity against the Israeli forces in Palestinian land in such a way that drive fear and horror to the Israeli people's hearts. The intifada, which was confined to restricted areas in the past year, has now spread to off-limits all Arab territories under occupation and to dissipate the Israeli dreams perpetuating their occupation, the paper continued. The intifada, said the paper, has indeed put an end to Zionist dreams of creating the "Greater Israel," extending from Nile to the Euphrates and forced the Zionists to admit their failure to controlling the affairs of the Palestinian lands by announcing plans to withdraw from Gaza Strip. The Palestinian heroes are steadfast in their resistance and in their legendary struggle and in the number of the martyrs they have offered in the course of liberating their homeland, the paper added. It said that the Israeli decision to expel the Palestinians to southern Lebanon has backfired on the Israeli society and its leaders who are now committing the ugliest Nazi acts of terror against the civilian population. The paper said that the Land Day anniversary is an occasion that gives the Palestinians further incentive to pursue the struggle to the end.

Saidach Elawar, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, expressed dissatisfaction with the outcome of the foreign ministers meeting in Damascus, describing the final statement as ambiguous and confusing in the Arab masses. The writer said that the Arab masses were expecting a collective Arab stand vis-a-vis the April 20 meeting in Washington where the peace process is scheduled to continue, but the meeting resulted in no collective stand. The writer said that the postponement of a decision with regard to the resumption of the negotiations in Washington can mean nothing and waiting for the results of the Hussein-Christopher meeting can by no means help the Arabs achieve a joint stand. "We had hoped that the Arab ministers will demand unequivocally the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 before the resumption of the peace negotiations," said the writer. He said the other parties could not be blamed so much for the result of the Damascus meeting as the Palestinian side because the Palestinians have failed so far to decide on whether they are going to Washington or not, the writer added. It is therefore the Palestinians' weak stand in this matter, said the writer, which prompted the other Arab parties to put off a final decision concerning the resumption of the talks.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

The economics of Russia

THE CORE problem which led to the demise of the Soviet Union and the breakdown of scientific Socialism in it was the economic failure. As envisaged originally in the Marxist theory, economic facts propel history: this is exactly what they have been doing in the Soviet and Russian cases. The socialist system failed to deliver, and the inevitable thing stormed in and tore apart the Socialist system itself. What is taking place now in Russia is another episode of the violent interaction between economics and politics.

Two years after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia now cannot be, in materialistic economic terms, something different from what it was then. The problems of bread and butter, of housing and jobs, and of inflation and medication are still around. They are fuelling the turmoil exactly as they did and as they will do. It was reported that the Russian parliament is taking advantage of popular discontent with Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms which last year led to a production drop of about 20 per cent and inflation of more than 2000 per cent.

The basic fact is that economic transition cannot, irrespective of good intentions, be achieved in less than 10-15 years. In the particular case of Russia and other ex-Soviet republics, transition is more difficult to achieve because the country and the economy have to move a very long way, from the extreme to the extreme. As long as the transition is not accomplished, political and social turmoil is bound to erupt from time to time irrespective of who is (are) the political leader(s). Indeed, the Russians will be very lucky if they can achieve transition without plunging themselves in a civil war or in destructive chaos at best. As the Western media put it, Mr. Yeltsin stands for economic reform based on the free

market economy and his opponents are the "so-called centrists, the industrial elite... who call themselves pragmatic businessmen, but they are in fact the Communist economic mentality personified".

This is an extreme view which cannot be true. The bone of contention now in Russia is what sort of reform to choose, not to go or not to go for reform. The evidence is that the Russian prime minister, Mr. Rutskoi, who is one of Mr. Yeltsin's men, criticises Russia's economic reforms and believes that they should be carried in a far more cautious way. He also criticises the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for putting forward too tough terms for rendering assistance.

As usual and expected, the West and its media are very busy telling the Russians that they know what is good for them more than any Russian does. After prolonged hesitation, the West is playing very seriously with the idea of helping Mr. Yeltsin in his capacity as the "brave democrat". And this help will come in its most effective form: economic aid.

Such aid will be enormous because, once the West starts it, it has to go to the end of this very long road. Aid will have to continue for the next 10 years and can run in tens of billions of dollars. For example, the external debt of Russia, which is anything near \$50 billion, will have to be written off.

However, the West, together with Japan, have coined their own rationale for this cost: Whatever aid is to be given now to Russia will be less than the (economic) loss the West will suffer if Mr. Yeltsin's free market march is to founder. With the support of the West, Mr. Yeltsin will most likely prevail in the final count but the question is at what cost to Russia.

M. KAHIL



Despite France's 'rightward' shift

Little change expected in foreign policy

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

PARIS — France's new conservative government may prove more protectionist and nationalist, possibly creating new trade tensions with the United States and Europe.

But analysts don't expect a fundamental change in French foreign policy, now that the right wing has ousted the Socialists from government, leaving only President Francois Mitterrand to carry their banner.

Whether under the Socialists or the Gaullists — the heirs of Gen. Charles de Gaulle's mantle of prickly nationalism — France has asserted foreign policy independence within the framework of its commitment in the Western alliance.

Foreign and defence policy are considered the "reserved domain" of the presidency, a legacy of De Gaulle's stature on the world stage.

But Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, head of the Neo-Gaullist Party that holds the largest share of seats in the new National Assembly, has signalled that such presidential privilege may be over.

Mr. Chirac, his eye on capturing the presidency in 1995, has served notice that his Rally For

the Republic party will put the interests of French farmers first in the dispute with Germany and the United States over agricultural subsidies.

The conservatives, like the socialists, have vowed to veto a U.S.-European Community (EC) agreement that would force cuts in EC subsidies and production of crops such as grain and oilseed, hurting French farmers. The right also wants to scrap an EC agricultural reform programme that cuts subsidies.

Since France has been a prime force behind the European Com-

mission during the 1986-88 cohabitation.

"He knew they were sifting out messages last time," said Michel Girard, political science professor at the Sorbonne, referring to the rightist-run foreign ministry.

Still, that period was one of general harmony between Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Chirac, then premier, on foreign issues.

For example, they refused Washington's request to send warplanes across French airspace to bomb Libya in 1986, calling the raid an escalation of terrorism.

Then U.S. President Reagan ordered the air raid after investi-

Whether under the Socialists or the Goulists ... France has asserted its foreign policy independence within the framework of its commitment to the Western alliance.

munity's drive toward closer integration, a crisis with Germany would profoundly embarrass Mr. Mitterrand.

Mr. Mitterrand's "cohabitation," or power-sharing, with the right could lead to a struggle over foreign policy.

Mr. Mitterrand, foreseeing his party's electoral loss, reportedly had a private diplomatic telex installed in his Elysee Palace last winter because of his experience

gains said Lihyan agents were behind the fatal bombing of a Berlin discotheque frequented by U.S. servicemen.

Even after the Socialists returned to power in 1988, the right backed the left's foreign policy. This included French participation in the Gulf war, the humanitarian rescue mission in Somalia, pressuring the Serbs in the Bosnian civil war, and support for Russia's embattled President

Boris Yeltsin.

Both groups continue to support France's arm-length membership in NATO and favour building a European military force outside NATO.

Both back maintaining a nuclear force, but may clash over whether to end Mr. Mitterrand's moratorium on test blasts.

The new conservative government "would be a bit more nationalist, but not much. It's seen as being tougher on foreign trade and agricultural interests, but I don't think the margin is great," said Dr. Nicholas Wahl, director of the Institute of French Studies at New York University.

"I don't expect any great Gaullist gestures," he said.

After a period of demanding that African governments institute democratic reforms as a condition for French aid, Mr. Mitterrand has reverted to dispatching troops to former French colonies, such as Rwanda, Gabon, Chad and Zaire to protect investments.

Conservative influence on foreign policy may also be impeded by the large number of ambassadors and other diplomats recently named by the Socialists, who foresaw they were about to lose power.

"It will take years for the conservatives to retake the diplomatic initiative," Mr. Girard said.

Letter from the U.N.

By Walid Sadi

U.N. panel uncompromising on punishment of human right violators

THE INTERNATIONAL community underscored its reservation on the resort to statute of limitations or general amnesties that purport to prevent the investigation and punishment of perpetrators of crimes against humanity during the ongoing deliberations of the U.N. Human Rights Committee (HRC) on the case of Uruguay.

Uruguay was under "de facto" military rule between 1973 and 1985 when there were untold numbers of grave human rights violations ranging from extra judicial executions to disappearances and torture on a large scale.

To underscore the importance of the HRC's probing into Uruguay's human rights record, the government sent a special representative of the president of the country to respond to the various inquiries put to him by the 18-member committee as well as submit his country's third periodic report as requested under the International Cove-

nant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

What the experts in the HRC were disturbed most about in examining Uruguay's progress report was the so called 1986 *Ley de Caducidad de la Prescripcion Punitiva del Estado* which was promulgated after the return of democracy to the country in 1985.

In effect, the law, otherwise called the law of expiry of the punitive powers of the state, prevented the prosecution of officials accused of responsibility for human rights violations during the period of military rule. As a result, all pending judicial investigations into cases involving allegations of torture, extrajudicial executions and disappearances were frozen and then dismissed on the strength of the 1986 expiry law.

The spokesman of the government stated that his government wanted to start a new era in the country and turn a new page based on national reconciliation and forgiveness. This

stance of letting bygones be bygones was effectively rejected by the committee which saw in the continuous investigation of all human rights violations and the punishment of all those found guilty as necessary under the ICCPR.

There is no way that Uruguay and other similarly situated countries can prevent the return to the past eras of oppression except by holding those responsible for the commission of grave human rights violations accountable at all times. International law per se does not allow the application of statutes of limitations on grades against humanity, many are members pointed out, and there is no reason to tolerate Uruguay's attempt to justify its law that effectively granted amnesty to human rights violators.

It was also stated that the prevention of torture and other grave human rights violations call for effective remedies which cannot be had without the thorough investigation of all cases of grave human rights

violations and to bring to justice all those found guilty.

This ruling by the HRC casts doubt about not only statute of limitations but also amnesties that in effect absolve human rights violators from accountability no matter how much time has passed since their occurrence.

The committee concluded its consideration of the situation in Uruguay Tuesday. Already two other countries were under investigation by the human rights body, namely, Niger and Dominican Republic. The panel will then investigate the case of Iran submitted its second periodic report last summer in Geneva but due to the extensive investigation that was conducted by the members of the committee, it was decided to resume consideration of the same case during this spring session of the ERC.

The writer, who is on the editorial staff of the Jordan Times, is a member of U.N. Human Rights Committee.

Suppressing the truth

By G.H. Jansen

AMONG THE many lessons taught by the explosion in the World Trade Centre in New York on Feb. 26 — lessons on security and so on — was the further lesson that there are two ways of telling lies: in legal parlance "sugessio falsi", positively suggesting falsehood, but also "suppressio veri", suppressing the truth, which is what was done in the trade centre case.

On Sunday March 28, four weeks after the bombing, the news broke, and was carried worldwide by the American Cable News Network, that four days after the event, a letter was sent by post to the New York Times claiming responsibility for the bombing in the name of the "Liberation Army, Fifth Battalion," a hitherto unknown group.

There was, as usual in such cases, a threat of further bombings linked to a series of demands including an end to U.S. diplomatic relations with Israel and an end to "interfering with any of the Middle East countries' interior affairs".

In short, this letter made a direct retaliatory connection between the bombing and U.S. policy towards the Middle East in general and to Israel in particular: The bombing was punishment for the Israeli connection.

It was almost certainly because of that Israeli connection that the New York Times suppressed the news of the letter and of its contents for four weeks; and this by the leading U.S. newspaper which makes the proud boast on its masthead "all the news that's fit to print".

The Times, trying to exculpate itself of "suppressio veri" says that it turned the letter over to the New York City Police Department's chief of detectives, a Mr. Borelli, who passed it on to a federal and city task force investigating the bombing.

Of course, there is no excuse in the Times passing on the letter to any official who may have told the newspaper to suppress the news because the Times is important enough to ignore any such request, in the interests of truth and of journalistic independence and integrity.

As a result of this suppression, the whole world for four weeks kept asking "Who did it?" and "why did they do it?" including the investigators themselves and the reporters of the Times. One of these, Ralph Blumenthal, wrote a report distributed by the New York Times service on Saturday May 27 which was headlined "Blast looks less like foreign plot".

The suppressed letter crossed the T's and dotted the I's on "the foreign plot" when it argued: "The American people must know that their civilians who got killed are not better than those who are getting killed by American weapons and support... The American people are responsible for the actions of their government and they must question all of the crimes that their government is committing against other people."

In suppressing the facts, what was kept from the American public was the high price of friendship with Israel. That cover-up has been achieved because even though the truth has got out, the lapse of time has disconnected the bombing from its connection with Israel.

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialising in Middle Eastern and Islamic affairs.

LETTERS

Revengeful inspections

To the Editor:

IT SEEMS that the inspection on Iraq's so-called nuclear and other facilities including normal food and milk production factories will never end. Perhaps those United Nations inspectors seem to enjoy the inspections financially and touristically. They seem to enjoy the trips in Iraq as we see them on television cheerfully embarking and disembarking from passenger vehicles.

Financially they receive fat salaries and enormous allowances and emoluments from the United Nations. Perhaps they consider the international organisation a fat cow which can be milked ad infinitum and subsequently put all those enormous expenses on the burden of Iraq's population.

Inspections on the part of Security Council members have simply taken the form of revenge, nothing more nor less.

To me and to thousands of people, U.N. inspections have become a farce and the honourable permanent members of the Security Council cannot fool all the people all the time. Let them have the courage and dare send inspectors to Israel's nuclear plant at Dimona in the Naqab where Israel has certainly made many nuclear bombs. One of the truthful witnesses is the imprisoned Israeli Mordechai Vanunu himself.

Pascal B. Karmy,
Amman.

The quest for change

To the Editor:

I WORK for a local international enterprise. For the past week the chief executive officer (CEO) has been drumming us for the need to change, move forward and progress to achieve success in our business and our lives. He has also stressed the need for teamwork and team effort as opposed to everyone watching out for himself.

I cannot but think that the same should be applied to our beloved country, Jordan and to its community. We have become used to the status quo and though we have welcomed the new democracy there seems to be no move away from the old, outdated and inefficient ways.

We must shed the old skin and start to really make a move forward, no excuses are acceptable, there is no reason why we cannot progress, we always say when there is a will there is a way.

There is nothing special about the Japanese, or Koreans or motivation, and the thirst and quest for change and progress is not acceptable. We have to stop thinking about our own personal gains, financial or otherwise. We should all think about doing something that will benefit the country, rather than thinking about ways to cheat people out of more money.

We can all make a difference if we are all prepared to change; out with the old and in with the new. If anyone doubts that he can make a difference, then take a look at the work of His Majesty King Hussein and what it has done for this country so far. The far, it is now up to us. Don't let His Majesty down, let's really build this country.

I have a dream of a strong and powerful Jordan, where every member of the community is honestly working at building the future Jordan, where everyone is trying to outdo the rest to improve and benefit the country. Efficiency and progress are the keywords.

Samir Atalla,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

No 'secrets' revealed in closed session

(Continued from page 1)

that Jordan considered essential. The prime minister's remarks, however, did little to change the views of the deputies who are opposed to the peace negotiations.

A Muslim Brotherhood deputy said his bloc made its continued rejection of the peace process known to the government.

"Our rejection of the peace talks is known. We made that clear during the session and nothing will change that stand," a Brotherhood deputy told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Presenting the House with a government account of the Shabbat Al Nafir Al Islami case in which two deputies were convicted of subversion against the state, Minister of Interior Jawdat Shouk defended the legality of all procedures taken against the two lawmakers, sources said.

Deputies Leith Shbeilat and Yaqoub Qarash, both independent Islamists, were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in the case in November but were pardoned a week later by a general amnesty issued by His Majesty King Hussein.

The two deputies pledged their innocence throughout the case and after their release, insisting the charges against them were fabricated.

"Mr. Shouk restricted his remarks to the legal side of the (Al Nafir) case. Nothing that he said was new, however," one lawmaker said.

But while, Sheikh Qarash left the session in protest against discussing the issue in a secret session, Mr. Shbeilat responded to the government's account, producing what he said were documents proving that the case against him and Sheikh Qarash was "completely fabricated," sources said.

Sheikh Qarash Monday told the Jordan Times he has similar evidence of his innocence and lashed at both the government and the House for denying him the "opportunity to take his case

to the people."

He charged the decision to discuss the issue in a secret session was a "conspiracy."

Mr. Shbeilat's speech was followed by a heated debate that had deputies divided on whether to probe the case anew by the House's "Investigation Committee or end discussion of it. And even though the case was not put to vote, the majority of deputies opted against reinvestigating it, the sources said.

At least one deputy, however, severely criticised the House for what he described as its unsatisfactory performance in defence of the two lawmakers, who were tried by a military court.

"I was a member of the house committee to follow up the case of the two deputies. The committee, however, did not do anything worth mentioning, and its response to the case did not rise to the level prompted by the unjust arrest of a member of the house," Mr. Kavar reportedly told the session.

Mr. Kavar was also reported to have criticised the government for allowing "a certain government agency" to "fabricate" the case against the two deputies as well as Mr. Shbeilat for describing the house as "fascist" in a statement to a London-based news paper.

The government insisted that it did not interfere in the case which it said was handled by the independent judiciary.

Sources said that there was also nothing new in what the government said about its policy vis-à-vis the situation in the Bosnia-Herzegovina or the delay in the completion of the Jerash Amman Highway, which is way behind in schedule.

Even the minister of public works asked that the Amman-Jerash road case be discussed in a public session, according to one deputy.

"It is regrettable" said Mr. Kavar, "that successive governments keep insisting on secrecy" on issues about which nothing is secret.

No change in elections law — Bloush

(Continued from page 1)

for many steps."

He said the Lower House of Parliament has proved to be one of the advanced assemblies because it has dealt with and passed permanent laws that would be effective for years to come, rather than enacting emergency laws. "Thus, it was natural to discuss and study these laws thoroughly, which refutes claims by some people that there were prevarications in the House debates," he said.

The minister said the last session of the House, whose term expires today, came contrary to expectations by some people. He added that the House did not run a publicity campaign in preparations for the next elections, expected later this year.

U.S., Britain said to shift Iraq policy

(Continued from page 1)

tives, Mr. Christopher put human rights on the top of his list. "We must encourage the democratic revolution that has swept much of the world," he said. "By strengthening democracy, human rights and free markets we do more than honor the universal values upon which our nation is founded. We help ensure our own security and prosperity."

The BBC said: "Nowhere has an American or British official publicly declared this change in policy. That is because both governments know that there are no votes in compromising with Iraq. But the change was signalled by what was not said."

"Questioned after the sanctions review, neither American Ambassador Madeleine Albright nor the British Ambassador Sir David Hannay would repeat the previously stated position of their governments which was that sanctions could not be lifted while Saddam Hussein remained in power."

It said diplomatic sources confirmed this is intended as a signal to Iraq. It said some Western diplomats had spoken about a possible fresh start.

It said the American and British position remains that sanctions will not be lifted until Iraq is in full compliance with Security Council resolutions. It said this is something they believe President Saddam cannot deliver.

"But privately, the hope is that this change in policy will secure more cooperation from Iraq or at the very least it might prevent a renewed confrontation between Iraq and the United States some time in the future," the BBC reported.

On Monday, the Security Council decided to maintain economic sanctions against Iraq. No vote was taken; the sanctions are reviewed every 60 days.

Ms. Albright said after closed Security Council consultations in which members retained the sanctions that Baghdad had not fulfilled its obligations under the Gulf war ceasefire.

VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT LIFEGUARD

American Employees Community Service Association

The American Employees Community Service Association (AECSA) will take applications beginning April 4, through April 15, for an assistant lifeguard (female preferred).

Applicant must:

- Be proficient in English.
- Have senior lifesaving certification.
- Have previous lifeguard experience.
- Be willing to work weekends, holidays and possibly evenings.

Starting date for this position will be approximately May 1st.

Interested applicants should submit an application to the American Embassy at the front gate. Attn: AECSA

Israel seals off West Bank

(Continued from page 1)

slumped in their car, riddled with machine gun bullets, and their weapons gone.

"This event represents the bankruptcy of the Rabin government," said Daniel Hazut's brother Gadi, in a remark heard nationwide on army radio.

Most recent attacks on Israelis have happened in the occupied lands, especially the Gaza Strip, which was sealed Monday following the stabbing death of a Jew. But Hadera is a city of more than 40,000, 13 kilometres from the West Bank.

Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minister, cancelled his engagements to deal with the crisis, and a close aide, Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, acknowledged that the slaying revealed "dramatic changes" in the conflict.

The killing of the two policemen coincided with the 17th anniversary of "Land Day" when Israeli Arabs and Palestinians of the occupied territories commemorated the police killing of six Arabs who protested against government land confiscations.

At least two assailants shot the policemen in the head from close range and took their guns, police said. The patrol car's engine was still running when a delivery man found the bodies.

Police said the assailants apparently shot the two men with automatic rifles before fleeing. It was unclear whether the assailants were from Israel or the occupied territories.

There is no doubt we're speaking of an incident against a nationalistic background," police chief Yaakov Turner said. "I hope this incident will not cause a further deterioration, certainly not today which always is sensitive."

Many of Israel's 750,000 Muslim and Christian Arabs planned marches as in past years on Land Day. Leaders of the uprising also called a general strike in the occupied territories.

Mr. Turner was reluctant to link the attack to Land Day. The killing of a sixth Israeli this month in the occupied Gaza Strip on Monday — Shayya Deutch, 38 — prompted Jewish settlers there to demand Mr. Rabin expel more Palestinians.

Ministers and officials hinted after a cabinet meeting that more measures could be taken.

During the run-up to as well as the trial, both deputies maintained their innocence, suggesting that they were victims of a frame-up. But the fact that the intelligence agencies and security apparatus found it fit to put on their public trial indicated that the prosecution believed that it had an iron-clad case.

The prosecution played its hand carefully. It went ahead and arrested the two deputies when Parliament was in recess, thus clearing the legal hurdle of having to lift the immunity of the lawmakers while the legislative authority was in session.

But the entire labyrinth of evidence was mostly circumstantial. The prosecution asserted that Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash were the leaders of the foreign-backed group called Shahih Al Nafir Al Islami which plotted to overthrow the monarchy and install a caliphate-style regime in Jordan through violent means. Related charges included possession of explosives and weapons and incitement to sedition.

The additional charges of defamation of His Majesty the King and Parliament members levelled against Mr. Shbeilat were seen in Amman streets as a bait to infuriate and alienate the deputy's colleagues in the House. Mr. Shbeilat was cleared of these charges in the verdict of the court.

Theories were many and speculation was rife as to why the case itself: Was it a case of conjecture and fabricated evidence as a defence lawyer openly suggested in court? Or was it a trial where, despite the guilty verdict, an overzealous prosecution hanged its case, tripped and fell on its face?

For the Jordanian man on the street, long used to the typical approach of the security agencies, the very fact that at least five of the state witnesses testified in court while under custody — "in a different case" as the prosecution maintained — was enough indication of "deals."

Reprimands and court warnings to defence lawyers were plenty, but these, coupled with surprise evidence and witnesses

House thinks

(Continued from page 1)

issue was tackled in a secret session of Parliament in the penultimate session of its term if only because of the sensitive nature and implications of the affair.

The media, local, regional, Arab and international, had a field day with the case when it surfaced in August/September last year. Media suggestions ranged from "serving notice on Islamic militant groups" to "removing thorns from the government's side."

The royal pardon, described by Arab and Western political observers as a "political masterstroke unparalleled in recent Arab history," was supposed to have put the affair to rest. But Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash argued that they had a right to let "the people know the truth" and hence Monday's session of Parliament.

Originally billed as a "special session," the gathering was, however, held in secret, away from the listening ears of the press, and a sense of expectation prevailed outside the sealed doors of the doomed Parliament House Monday evening. But, as it turned out, it was a case of a media quest in vain since the government did not offer anything new on the case or shed light on any of the aspects of the affair, according to deputies who attended the session.

And, quite expectedly, neither the government nor the House found it fit to pursue the subject further after the executive authority, presented "a statement saying the affair was handled by the judiciary and therefore it had nothing to do with it, and lawmakers heard a 'report' prepared by Mr. Shbeilat.

Sheikh Qarash staged a walk-out from the House after the speaker ruled that the session be held in secret.

"I suffered 81 days in prison, and it is my right to speak for 81 minutes on the record with the public present to hear it," argued the bearded deputy. He said he

would be committed to accepting a secret session if a majority of the deputies present voted it so, but walked out before the vote was actually taken.

Mr. Shbeilat told the Jordan Times Tuesday that he reserved the right to release his "report" which he read in the House.

"The session was secret but there is nothing secret about my report, and I reserve the right to release it to the public when I find it fit," he said.

According to Mr. Shbeilat, who is one of the most popular parliamentarians in the Kingdom, "the government did not offer any new information on the case."

The government's report "made a general review of the legality of the case and noted that it was handled by the judiciary branch," he said.

Mr. Shbeilat described his report, which was distributed in the House, as "comprehensive, touching on all aspects of the case and the perjuries that were committed against me in court."

"It is a scandal and an embarrassment to the government," he claimed. "That is why they wanted to hear it secret in the first place."

No official was available for comment on the deputy's charges since proceedings of secret sessions are not supposed to be revealed to the media.

"No deputy had anything to say in reply to my report, and no action was taken by the House," Mr. Shbeilat said. "No vote was taken."

Mr. Shbeilat declined to discuss further details of the session, saying that he was bound by the parliamentary code not to reveal details, if secret session in the press.

By and large, the conviction of many Jordanians is that something was seriously wrong in the entire affair since many pieces did not fit into the puzzle. Others, Shbeilat critics and political rivals among them, rubbed their knuckles in glee and asserted that the deputy, who was always a thorn on the side of the executive authority with hard-hitting criticism since entering Parliament in 1984 elections, was only getting what

"I cannot detail the (other) measures because we purposely did not detail them in the government announcement," Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told army radio.

"There is no need to talk about them. There is a need to implement them," he said.

Up to 100,000 Palestinians cross to work in Israel every day. The money they earn is vital to the impoverished economy of the occupied territories where Palestinians have been in revolt against Israeli occupation for five years.

Security sources said there was little else Mr. Rabin could do except further tighten controls on Palestinian workers. Israel had not closed off the entire occupied territories since the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli border policeman in December.

The three-page final communiqué reflected the Arab endorsement of the six Palestinian demands which they have tabled as preconditions for their attendance of the peace talks. The six points, accepted in principle by the U.S. during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Jerusalem last month, were included in the final communiqué as demands by Arab foreign ministers that should be met before they announce they will attend the negotiations.

Palestinians have refused to receive the invitation for the next round of talks, and have linked their participation to achieving an Israeli commitment it will not resort to expulsions in the future.

According to political observers here, the Arab adoption of the six-points not only strengthens the negotiating position of the Palestinians in trying to achieve their demands, but it also moved the file of the Palestinian expellees, stranded in South Lebanon from the Palestinian circle to the wider Arab and international circles, and reiterated the Arab commitment to a comprehensive settlement, blocking the way for Israeli attempts to sign separate peace treaties with Arabs.

Observers also argued that the unified Arab position and the close coordination between them "was the test of these parties to the attitude of the new American administration in future Arab-Israeli negotiations, particularly since the next round of talks would be the first to be held under this administration."

The ministers also noted that what was announced during and after the recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Washington has raised suspicions and increased Arab concerns over the future of the peace process, particularly concerning the "strategic partnership" between the U.S. and Israel, which contradicts the American role of honest broker," said the final communiqué.

Conference sources said that the Damascus meeting could not have come out with a clear decision from Arabs without first solving the Palestinian expellees problem. The only option was for them to keep the door open.

The options facing Arabs at the start of the coordination meeting were either to announce Arab acceptance of the invitation to engage in the peace talks without a solution to the crisis of the expellees, something which emboldens Arabs with their populations who sympathise with the expellees. The other option was for Arabs to disagree in Damascus and fracture the already fragile Arab coordination, or to announce a rejection of the invitation, thus placing Arabs at odds with the new U.S. administration, or to leave the door open for further diplomatic efforts to solve the expellees problem.

A shot in the Palestinian arm

(Continued from page 1)

foreign ministers preferred to intensify their contacts with the U.S. by sending delegations to Washington next week, thus responding to invitations extended to them by the U.S. administration in March 22 to discuss the future of the peace process prior to the planned date of the next round of negotiations.

In a press conference following the meetings, Mr. Sharaa said such meetings "help us all in removing the obstacles impeding the resumption of the peace process."

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Jordan to seek active EC role

(Continued from page 1)

expellees issue and urge European effort towards (Israeli) implementation of 799 which will make it much easier for Arab participation in resuming peace talks," he said.

"We have to bring the focus back on the broader peace process and away with the expellees in its way," Dr. Aboudar said. "We also want a larger European role in the peace process."

The minister declined to elaborate on how Jordan defined a "larger role" for Europe in the peace process.

But other senior officials and analysts criticise what they see as a double European approach to the peace process and a European role subservient to the Americans.

"We don't understand why the

Europeans are taking a back seat when their links to the Middle East are much stronger and intrinsic than the Americans," said a senior official. "They have let the Americans take the leading role and guide the peace efforts."

"After all, who is closer to the Middle East — the Europeans or the Americans?" asked the official. "Preferred anonymity."

Analysts noted that recent EC moves do indicate a fresh European approach to the Middle East, particularly the Belgian decision early this month to upgrade the status of the PLO mission in Brussels and the lifting of a British ban on high-level contacts with the PLO.

"Perhaps there is a new European perspective of the Middle East," said the senior official. "But we have to wait and see the outcome of the EC delegation's mission to the Middle East."

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Krabbe suspension trimmed

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's track federation has trimmed sprint star Katrin Krabbe's suspension in a drug violation case, allowing her to resume her career this August, news reports said Tuesday.

That raised the possibility of Krabbe taking part in the World track and field championships in Stuttgart, which start August 13. However, International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said Tuesday Krabbe would not be able to compete at the Stuttgart Championships because she would not have recorded a qualifying time in competition.

The German Athletics Federation (DLV) said Tuesday that its arbitration panel had decided Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr were free to run from August 13. The Stuttgart World Championships start on the following day.

"The ban has been cut to one year and the September decision for a four-year ban cancelled," DLV doping official Norbert Laurens said.

"The panel decided that there was no clear doping offense but has punished the athletes for 'un-sportsmanlike behaviour'."

In a statement later the DLV said it would accept the panel's ruling but would not announce a detailed reason for the decision before the end of next week.

"The DLV will, of course, completely respect the decision of the panel as its highest decision-making body," the statement said.

Krabbe, Breuer and Derr were suspended last September for taking the drug clenbuterol.



Katrin Krabbe

Breuer has also been banned for a year but Derr, who did not test positive for the drug but admitted to taking it, has been banned for eight months.

It was Krabbe and Breuer's second successful appeal against a drugs ban in a year. Last June the two athletes were cleared of manipulating urine samples through a legal technicality.

Tuesday's decision seems both a result of the same legal technicality and the confused status of clenbuterol.

Krabbe and Breuer escaped a four-year ban for tampering with urine samples when the DLV admitted it had no clause in its regulations permitting it to conduct out-of-competition tests.

The same pair plus Derr tested positive for clenbuterol in July but the DLV did not update its rules providing for random tests until November.

Accordingly the only ban possible under DLV rules was a maximum two-year suspension for "un-sportsmanlike conduct."

France's Simian beats Bergstrom

OSAKA (AP) — Stephane Simian of France, smashing eight service aces, beat Christian Bergstrom of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the \$500,000 Salem Open tennis tournament.

In other first-round matches on the hard courts at Esaka Tennis Centre in Osaka, Western Japan, Americans Doug Flach, Chuck Adams and Steve Bryan were all winners.

Flach beat Gouichi Motomura of Japan 6-0, 6-2. Adams downed Yasuhide Yamamoto of Japan 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Bryan defeated Jamie Morgan of Australia 6-1, 6-3.

Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan scored a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Kim Bong-Soo of South Korea.

In doubles, top-seeded Jim Grabb of the United States and Todd Woodbridge of Australia beat the Japanese pair of Daijirō Furusho and Tommy Shimada 6-2, 6-2.

Third seeds Glenn Michibata of Canada and David Pate of the United States beat Kent Kinnear and Sven Salumaa of the United States 6-2, 6-3.

Mark Keil of the United States and Cristo Van Rensburg of South Africa downed American brothers Luke and Murphy Jensen 6-4, 6-4.



Stephane Simian

In the 11 remaining first-round singles matches Wednesday, top-seeded American Jim Courier meets Stefano Pescosolido of Italy and second-seeded Michael

Chang of the United States plays David Prinosil of Germany. The singles winner receives \$67,500 and the doubles champions \$29,000.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Atletico Madrid name 11th coach since 1987

MADRID (AP) — Spanish First-Division team Atletico Madrid, Monday named Argentine Armando Ramon "cachito" Heredia its new coach, replacing Argentine Omar Pastoriza who resigned last week after a run-in with club president Jesus Gil Y Gil. Heredia becomes the club's 11th coach since Gil Y Gil took over the presidency in the 1987-88 season. He is a former Atletico player and was coaching Avila, a Spanish second-division club. Pastoriza resigned March 22 after only five weeks heading the club. He replaced Luis Aragonés who was fired in February.

De La Hoya will make 10-round debut May 8

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Oscar de La Hoya will make his 10-round debut May 8 when he meets Frankie Avelar in a lightweight fight at Lake Tahoe, promoters announced Monday. De La Hoya, undefeated in five professional fights, will try for his sixth consecutive knockout in the scheduled 10-round bout against Avelar, who holds the North American Boxing Federation lightweight title. Avelar, of Las Vegas, is 15-3 with seven knockouts. He has won nine of his last 10 bouts.

Greek club banned for 2 years

MUNICH (R) — Greek basketball club Aris Salonika were banned from European competition for two years Monday. The ban follows the violent scenes at the European Cup Winners' Cup final earlier this month when Aris fans rioted and attacked SK Istanbul players. The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) said it had also fined Aris 50,000 marks (\$30,860) and ruled that the club play for all the damage to the Turin Stadium where the final was played March 16. "Aris are disqualified from all European club competitions for the next two seasons for which the club qualifies," the Munich-based organization said in a statement.

Giggs likely to shoulder Welsh hopes

CARDIFF (R) — Wales look likely to call on brilliant teenager Ryan Giggs to keep their World Cup hopes alive Wednesday against runaway leaders Belgium. Belgium, inspired by Enzo Scifo, already appear sure of reaching the 1994 finals in the United States after recording six wins in their first six Group Four games. Wales, beaten 2-0 by the Belgians in Brussels last November, need to win to stay in the battle for the second qualifying spot with Romania and Czechoslovakia.

Boitano applies for reinstatement

NEW YORK (R) — Former Olympic figure skating champion Brian Boitano announced Monday he has applied for reinstatement from the U.S. Figure Skating Association (USFSA) and the International Skating Union (ISU) to be eligible for the 1994 Olympics. Boitano, who won men's gold at the 1988 Calgary Games, turned professional after winning the 1988 World Championships in Budapest. He has been the undefeated world professional champion the last five years. One-time reinstatement to amateur competition from the professional ranks was approved by the ISU last June.

Svensson, Medvedev advance at Estoril

ESTORIL (AP) — Swede Jonas Svensson rallied to defeat Spain's Alejo Mancisidor 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 Monday to advance to the second round of the \$525,000 Estoril Open tennis tournament. Svensson, ranked 67th in the world, ousted Mancisidor in a match that lasted one hour and 43 minutes. Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev breezed past Spaniard Alberto Berasategui 6-2, 6-2. The Estoril Open is the first claycourt tournament of the ATP season. No. 1 seed Ivan Lendl begins play against Spain's Marcos Gorriz, while defending champion Carlos Costa, the No. 2 seed, plays Italian Renzo Furlan.

NBA STATISTICS

NEW YORK (AP) — NBA individual scoring, field goal percentage, rebounding and assist leaders through March 28:

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Jordan (Chi.)	64	806	398	2081	32.5
Wilkins (Atl.)	57	608	416	1730	30.4
K. Malone (Utah)	69	666	541	1877	27.2
Barkley (Phoe.)	66	631	395	1714	26.0
Mullin (G.S.)	46	474	183	1191	25.9
Olajuwon (Hou.)	69	692	356	1740	25.2
Ewing (N.Y.)	66	647	304	1599	24.2
O'Neal (Orl.)	66	601	364	1566	23.7
Rohinson (S.A.)	67	552	453	1560	23.3
Dumars (Det.)	65	567	285	1510	23.2
Petrusic (N.J.)	64	550	306	1478	23.1
Johnson (Mem.)	68	608	336	1558	22.9
Johnson (Char.)	69	625	272	1540	22.8
Miller (Ind.)	68	481	364	1458	21.4
Hardaway (G.S.)	58	451	249	1233	21.3

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Daugherty (Clev.)	444	771	.576
O'Neal (Orl.)	601	1056	.569
Ceballos (Phoe.)	288	510	.565
Thurpe (Hou.)	316	564	.560
K. Malone (Utah)	666	1208	.551
Brickowski (Mil)	408	743	.549
Nance (Clev.)	457	838	.545
Manning (LaC)	308	573	.538
Parish (Bos.)	362	676	.536
Green (LAL)	285	542	.526

REBOUNDING

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Rodman (Det.)	47	276	680	956	18.6
O'Neal (Orl.)	66	279	627	906	13.7
Olajuwon (Hou.)	69	237	657	894	13.0
Willis (Atl.)	66	273	567	840	12.7
Mutombo (Den.)	68	276	583	859	12.6
Barkley (Phoe.)	66	221	602	823	12.5
Seikaly (Mil.)	59	212	490	702	11.9
Rohinson (S.A.)	67	189	596	785	11.7
Ewing (N.Y.)	66	157	611	768	11.6
Coleman (N.J.)	63	210	515	725	11.5

ASSISTS

	G	NO	AVG
Stockton (Utah)	69	838	12.1
Hardaway (G.S.)	58	625	10.8
Skiles (Orl.)	62	579	9.3
Bogues (Char.)	68	617	9.1
M. Jackson (LAC)	69	615	8.9
Thomas (Det.)	64	558	8.7
Williams (Minn.)	63	545	8.7
Blaylock (Atl.)	66	548	8.3
Anderson (N.J.)	55	449	8.2
Murdock (Mil.)	66	520	7.9

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
Tammam Hirsch, Jr.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠953 AKQ1097 A ♠AK8
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ8 AQ KQ975 ♠Q109
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q9843 7 Q8 ♠AQ943
Your right-hand opponent opens:
- the bidding with one club. What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A QJ932 4 ♠AJ9732
What is your opening bid?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠QJ932 A ♠AJ9732 ♠4
What is your opening bid?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ76 8763 KJ92 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 3 ♣ ?
—Preemptive
What do you bid now?

Karpov slams Kasparov

MOSCOW (R) — Russian grandmaster Anatoly Karpov has accused arch-rival Garry Kasparov of sparking a row over the World Championship that could plunge chess into anarchy.

Karpov said in an interview that Kasparov, like champions of the past such as Emanuel Lasker and Jose Raul Capablanca, was bent on dictating his own terms for the title match.

"We are now threatened with a return to the times of complete anarchy and boundless dictat by the current champion," Karpov told the Russian newspaper "Trud" in remarks published Tuesday.

"Only he intends to decide when and whom he wants to play — and on conditions chosen by him."

Karpov was commenting on a decision by Kasparov and British challenger Nigel Short to stage their title match outside the auspices of the World Chess body fide to win players more say in professional chess.

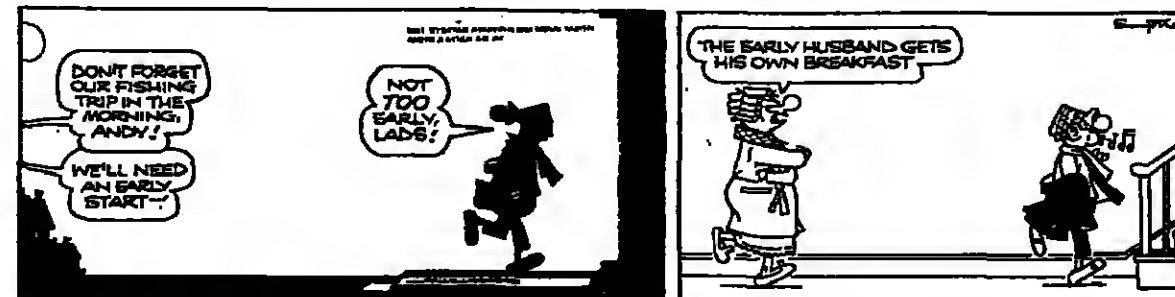
"As far as I understand, most leading world grandmasters do not support this initiative," Karpov said.

FIDE last week effectively stripped Kasparov of his title and said it would ask Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman to play for the world crown instead.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 31, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to do the brainwork necessary to understand what this scientific age is bringing about for this epoch of man and then apply what you learn to your own circumstances.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have all sorts of interesting plans for the future and you can have a considerable amount of success in making them work, especially since your charm is at a new peak.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider what your attachment most wants you to do and please that person by doing it with a flair and romance then all will be most delightful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make a point today to be with the most direct and outspoken associates you can contact and get them to advise you about future potentials.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't procrastinate today but get out whatever your tasks happen to be and reap the benefits that come to you through a job well done.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can have just as good a time as you wish today and it will depend on making the appointments and seeing the persons who bring you happiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Start this day on a constructive note by getting everything arranged at your home and where your family and property is concerned as you prefer.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the day when getting important desk work and reports out can bring you quick advancement towards a more secure, stable existence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Before you get involved in that interesting new plan of a material nature make sure you have gotten rid of all remaining aspects of present business.

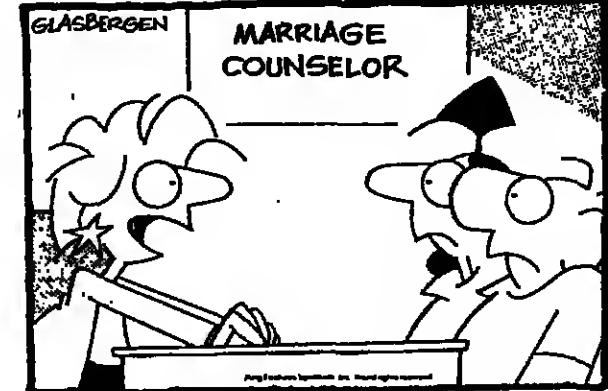
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your own outlet is not as good as those with whom you have had considerable satisfactory association to depend upon them, allow their suggestions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the right slant on just what to do now to gain your intimate urges so consider them carefully and then go and get them with ease.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use your strength of character and abilities now to carry through with that interesting course already begun and don't let a carping person waylay you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own judgement is not too good aow but that of those with whom you have some outside association can bring you good will of the general public.

THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



"If you have a boring marriage, maybe it's because you are boring people!"

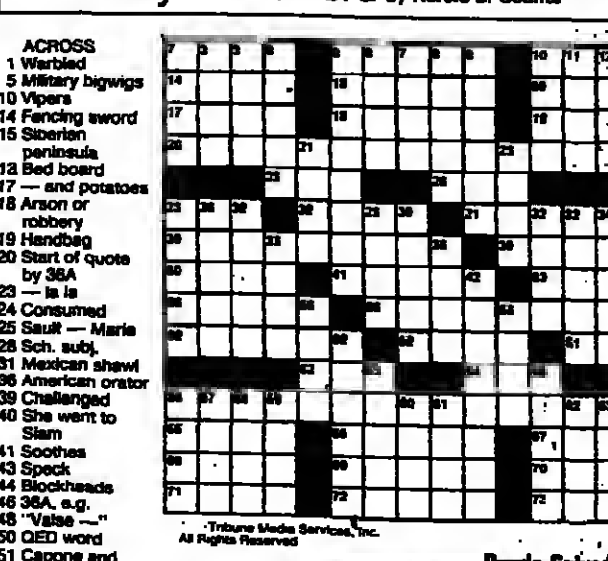
JUMBLE! THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHANT LUNGE BOUNCE CALMLY
Answer: Where were the rocket scientists at noon? — OUT TO LAUNCH!

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts



Britain's BAT '92 pre-tax profit soars

LONDON (R) — Record earnings from tobacco helped push 1992 pre-tax profit at tobacco and financial services giant BAT Industries 68 per cent higher to £1.65 billion (\$2.4 billion), the group has said.

London-headquartered BAT said profits would have been up a further £29 million (\$41.8 million) if it had not adopted a new Brazilian accounting standard.

The company also announced a bonus issue of ordinary shares on a one for one basis.

Chairman Patrick Sheehy noted a turnaround in the group's financial services division, powered by its wholly owned U.S. insurance subsidiary Farmers Group Inc., and a return to profit at its British insurer Eagle Star.

Sir Sheehy said recovery in Britain, both from Eagle Star and higher cigarette exports, helped boost the group's earnings per share to 58.7 pence from 24.8 pence.

"When combined with our confidence in the continuing growth of both businesses, this advance has enabled the board to recommend a final dividend of 22.6 pence, an increase for the year of 11 per cent," he added.

Sir Sheehy said BAT was offering the share bonus issue in a bid to encourage share ownership among smaller investors. It took a similar step in 1983.

The results came in the top end of share analysts' forecasts and BAT shares initially jumped 22 pence to 959 pence each.

Judge gives Murdoch temporary control of New York Post

NEW YORK (R) — A bankruptcy judge breathed new life into the ailing New York Post Monday by granting Rupert Murdoch temporary control of the America's oldest continuously publishing daily.

The Post is out of money and could have been closed Monday afternoon without the ruling placing media-magnate Murdoch at the helm immediately.

Judge Francis Conrad said during a phone conference monitored by Reuters that he had signed a conditional order transferring control of the Post to Mr. Murdoch from real estate developer Abraham Hirschfeld.

"Mr. Murdoch... may start printing the New York Post immediately," Mr. Conrad said.

"There is no better man than Rupert Murdoch to clean up the Post," said Mr. Hirschfeld at the end of Monday's hearing. "God bless Rupert Murdoch."

Australia-born Murdoch appeared at the Post immediately after the hearing where he was greeted by a cheering staff.

"This is a very emotional moment for me," he told reporters as he walked around the newsroom shaking hands. "But the real heroes of the moment are you."

He told them he wanted the paper to be "cheeky," "anti-establishment," and appealing to the "working man."

"I want a great fresh start for the New York Post. I want to return to basic journalism," he said.

Under an agreement reached between Mr. Hirschfeld and Mr. Murdoch Sunday, control of the Post would be transferred to a subsidiary of Mr. Murdoch's News Corp. for two months while Mr. Murdoch negotiates with creditors and federal regulators. The subsidiary is called NYP Acquisition Corp.

Mr. Murdoch, who owned the paper from 1977-1988, was forced to sell the tabloid because of a federal rule that prevented him owning a television station and newspaper in the same market.

If the Murdoch cannot win a waiver of the rule, the agreement to own the paper will terminate, lawyers agreed during Monday's conference.

A hearing on the implementation of the management agreement and over disputes concerning the payment of payroll taxes is scheduled for Wednesday in bankruptcy court.

Last week, creditors moved in court to end Mr. Hirschfeld's management contract because he failed to pay some of the paper's bills. The paper had \$591,000 in weekend bills due and only \$360,000 in cash on Monday morning.

Under the agreement, Mr. Murdoch's NYP Acquisition will give Mr. Hirschfeld the \$1 million he put up in an unsecured loan. It will also insure Hirschfeld is paid for a \$1.57 million loan guaranteed by the Post's advertising and circulation revenues.

The 192-year-old Post has not fared well since Mr. Murdoch sold it. It is now in bankruptcy and has been shaken in recent weeks by changes in management and editors.



Rupert Murdoch

Iranian trade deficit grows

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian exports to major industrialised nations have dropped by about 40 per cent since March last year, Tehran radio reported Tuesday.

Imports, however, have grown by about one third, the radio said in a report about the country's increasing deficit.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said Iranian exports shrank to \$6.1 billion, while imports ballooned from \$9 billion to \$12 billion. Iran's main trading partner are Germany, Japan, Italy, France, Britain and the United States, the radio said.

Despite political acrimony that has marred U.S.-Iranian ties since the rise of the Islamic revolution in 1979, the United States rates as Iran's sixth largest trading partner.

Last year, the United States began allowing imports of Iranian oil. It exports mainly electronic goods to Iran.

A drop in Japanese imports from Iran, especially oil, was largely responsible for the growing deficit, the radio said.

The inflated deficit is yet another blow to Iran's economy, which has never recovered from the upheaval of the 1979 Islamic revolution and the ravages of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Iran's import bill over the past 12 months was estimated at \$29 billion, against a budget estimate of \$19.8 billion.

Last year the government flooded the market with consumer goods to placate a population fed up with shortages.

Last year Iran fell behind on payments, damaging its international credit rating. In December, its arrears to Japan alone were reported at \$483 million.

Oil exports are the lifeline of the Iranian economy. Tehran also exports carpets, caviar and dried fruits, but imports almost everything else.

Italian lira steals the show on Europe's foreign exchanges

LONDON (R) — The dollar was a currency sideshow Tuesday as the free-falling lira, touching new lows on fears that Italy's scandal-tainted government may collapse, took centre stage on Europe's foreign exchanges.

Dealers grown weary of tracking the political crisis in Russia turned to the turmoil in Italy and weighed the implications of the election of a centre-right government in France after years of left-wing supremacy.

European bourses were modestly higher, with French shares surging ahead on hopes that the new administration might cut interest rates. The bouncy French franc held on to gains against the mark following the country's elections.

Oil prices drifted lower, while gold rose about \$2 an ounce helped by strong Asian buying.

The free-floating lira was given a helping hand by central bank intervention after coming within a whisker of the key 1,000 per mark level as talk of a possible collapse of the government of Prime Minister Giuliano Amato gripped the money markets.

"Italy is looking in a fairly perilous state at the moment and it's only a matter of time before we go through 1,000," said David Brown, chief economist at Tokai Bank in London.

The rumours were triggered by news that President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had called crisis meetings with political leaders, a possible sign that the government is to be dismissed.

Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, shaken by claims that post-war leaders may have had mafia connections, was himself summoned to meet Mr. Scalfaro Tuesday. "It seems clear that Amato will not stay on board anymore," said Giorgio Secomandi, head of treasury at Banque Nationale de Paris in Milan.

The dollar showed little reaction to a move by the powerful German Bundesbank to set a variable repurchase agreement, a buy-back deal designed to inject liquidity into the market.

It was steady, at 1.6275 German marks and 116.90 Japanese yen in late morning trading, slightly down from Monday's European close of 1.6305 marks and 117.18 yen.

The lira touched a succession of record lows against the mark, trading as low as 999.20 to the German unit, compared with Monday's close of 992.25. At 1120 GMT it was at 997.00 per mark.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, crude prices were weak in thin trading. The benchmark Brent blend of crude for May delivery fell four cents to 18.75 a barrel.

Cigarette tax threat mobilises U.S. tobacco farmers

KENANSVILLE, North Carolina (AP) — Tobacco farmers in the nation's largest tobacco-producing state are preparing to fight what some say is the biggest threat to their livelihood in decades.

Their enemy is the Clinton administration and a mere suggestion that the president might propose higher taxes on tobacco products to help pay for a national health insurance plan.

The tax could increase the price of a pack of cigarettes to more than \$4, and farmers fear that would cut consumption of their cash crop.

"How much more do we have to pay? Why make tobacco pay it?" asks 38-year-old Rouse Ivey, a second-generation grower.

Mr. Ivey and other tobacco farmers in North Carolina are used to criticism of their way of life. They feed their families with profits from a crop that is blamed for thousands of deaths each year.

"Out in a chicken yard, if one chicken gets down the rest jump on him. That's how I feel. The tobacco farmer is down so let's jump on him," Mr. Ivey said.

"We're under the worst attack I've seen in 17 years I've been raising tobacco," Mr. Ivey said last week. He said the tax idea isn't as big a threat as the surgeon general's report in the 1960s that said smoking was a health hazard.

He stopped by Summerlin's crossroad general store, a hangout for farmers, to pick up an anti-tax petition he had dropped off a few days earlier. One hundred people — some farmers, some not — had signed.

"There are people here like car dealers, truck drivers and other people whose livelihood depends on tobacco," he said.

Ukrainian currency loses half its value

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's temporary currency collapsed Tuesday, losing half its value against the U.S. dollar in interbank trading.

The karbovanets fell to 3,000 to the dollar from last week's level of 2,050 at the interbank currency exchange.

"It looks like a catastrophe," said one exchange official, without offering any explanation for the plunge.

The karbovanets was introduced in the former Soviet republic more than a year ago at par to the Russian rouble pending the launch of a full-fledged currency, the hryvnia.

It fell steadily throughout last year and until now had been trading at about three to the rouble. But its value had been stable for the past two months.

Sources close to the government blamed the country's central bank, saying it was responsible for a huge increase in money supply in February and March, which they said was eroding the currency's value.

The sources said the move effectively torpedoed the tight money policies pursued by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma since he took office last October. They predicted a huge jump in monthly inflation figures.

"Mr. Kuchma's firm hand on spending has been credited for bringing monthly inflation down from 50 per cent in December to about 20 per cent last month," Mr. Kuchma last week announced the creation of a special commission to investigate an increase in monetary growth of 1.5 trillion karbovanets (\$500 million at the new rate), twice the planned level.

Coffee prices tumble

AMSTERDAM (R) — Coffee prices fell Tuesday and commodity market analysts said more short-term declines were possible in the absence of any progress at international price stabilisation talks in London and a rise in U.S. stockpiles.

"There are a few things going wrong at the same time. The amazing thing is that the ICO (International Coffee Organisation) hasn't done anything positive for 3-4 years but still seems capable of having a negative impact on the market," analyst Peter Kettle of commodities house E. D. and F. Man said.

The ICO talks, which began about 10 days in London, are due to end on Wednesday and few experts believe a pact will emerge.

"I think the talks are pretty much all but over, in which case the market is reacting to that," analyst Lawrence Eagles of brokers GNI said.

Disagreements over how to split export quotas led to the collapse of the last economic international pact in July 1989 and led to a rush to shipments resulting in high consumer stocks and historically low prices.

Thanks and Appreciation

The resident of Pakistan Camp (Pakistani and Bengalis) Zarqa, Jordan extend their thanks and gratitude to

1. Pentified Mission for Palestine represented by his Rev. Father William Krowraan

2. Franciscan Sisters

For their generous help and donation to install a sewerage system and supplying our camp with electricity.

Welfare Committee of the Pakistani Camp

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 29.3.93	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 29.3.93
Sterling Pound	1.4915	1.4945
Deutsche Mark	1.6259	1.6248
Swiss Franc	1.5043	1.5033
French Franc	5.5180	5.5240
Japanese Yen	116.80	116.78
European Currency Unit	1.1918	1.1905

USD Per JGD
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2572/77	Canadian dollar	1.6265/75
	1.6265/75	Deutsche marks	1.8265/75
	1.8265/75	Dutch guilders	1.5030/40
	1.5030/40	Swiss francs	33.51/55
	33.51/55	Belgian francs	5.5025/75x
	5.5025/75x	French francs	1620/1625
	1620/1625	Italian lire	116.75/80
	116.75/80	Japanese yen	7.7055/155
	7.7055/155	Swedish crowns	6.9220/320
	6.9220/320	Norwegian crowns	6.2475/575
	6.2475/575	Danish crowns	\$1.4930/40
One sterling	\$1.4930/40		
One ounce of gold	\$333.75/334.25		

TODAY AT

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

SPLASH

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Macaulay Culkin

HOME ALONE 2

"LOST IN NEW YORK"

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Ahmed Zaki — in

Mr. Karate

(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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1. 3 bedrooms, sitting, dining and salon. Central heating and telephone. Near Shmeisani Hospital.

2. 2 bedrooms, sitting, dining and salon. Central heating, telephone, near Jordan University.

Call 831998, between 3:00-6:00 p.m.

The Scandinavian Ladies

The Scandinavian Ladies are having their Easter brunch on April 14, 11:00 a.m. at Marriott. Lottery and Easter decorations for sale.

For reservations call 642467 and 690992, between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

All profit will go to charity.

Members and guests are welcome.

FRONTIER'S FOODS

U.S. MEAT CUTS ARE AVAILABLE IN JORDAN FOR RETAIL & WHOLESALE FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ALWALIMA FOOD SUPPLIES TEL. 826298

SECRETARY WANTED

A foreign organisation is looking for a female secretary/translator.

Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's or master's degree in social science. (preferably university graduate of U.S.A. or U.K.)
2. Excellent command of both Arabic and English (written/spoken)
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If you have these qualifications, please send your C.V. and a recent photo before April 18, 1993, to:

P.O.Box 3060, Amman, Jordan (Attention: Personnel Dept.)

U.N. readies new Bosnian airlift

TUZLA, Bosnia (R) — The United Nations is ready to restart its helicopter evacuation of wounded Muslims from Srebrenica Wednesday if it obtains approval from Bosnian Serbs, a U.N. military spokesman said Tuesday.

The first helicopter airlift from the besieged eastern Bosnian town last Wednesday was called off after the Serbs shelled the landing zone, killing at least three people and wounding six, including two Canadian U.N. soldiers.

By mid-morning, Bosnia's 48-hour-old ceasefire appeared generally to be still holding, despite some violations.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was trying to get another aid convoy of 16 trucks into Srebrenica, from where more than 2,000 people were evacuated Monday to the Muslims' northern Bosnian stronghold of Tuzla.

"We have been guaranteed safe passage," said UNHCR spokesman John MacMillan, although the convoy remained stuck at the border.

On Monday, desperate refugees crammed into the U.N. trucks and two people died during the eight-hour journey to Tuzla. A baby was killed when the tailgate of one of the trucks sprang open and some 25 people fell out on to the road.

Rita Redmond, UNHCR spokeswoman in Geneva, said the Mayhem showed the need for regular U.N. convoys to bring food and medicines to people stranded in remote eastern Bosnia.

"There were thousands of desperate people in that town who would do anything to get out,"

which highlights the need for the United Nations to get a regular convoy lifeline to convince people that they will not be left there alone to die," he said.

"It was absolute chaos in Srebrenica," Mr. Redmond told a news briefing. "As soon as the trucks unloaded, people rushed the trucks and jumped on. Some stayed on the trucks all night."

Mr. Redmond said that when the next U.N. convoy reached Srebrenica it was hoped that a more orderly system for evacuating refugees could be worked out.

The U.N. has generally preferred to distance itself from the evacuation of civilians in Bosnia as this might expose it to charges that it is helping with "ethnic cleansing," the forcible removal of one ethnic group by another.

UNHCR relief workers in Srebrenica have reported that after 11 months of siege, shelling and little food, the 60,000 inhabitants are reaching the end of their tether.

The U.N. was also concerned that its next helicopter airlift might be endangered by crowds mobbing the aircraft as soon as they landed.

U.N. spokesman Major Martin Waters said: "The air operations are planning another evacuation tomorrow."

He said the go-ahead would depend on whether the commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, received clearance from the Bosnian Serbs.

Four French Puma helicopters would be used in the operation, with some British crewmen, Mr. Waters said.

Mr. Waters said that if

Wednesday's operation went ahead, the helicopters would make two runs.

"On the last trip they got most of the seriously wounded out and there are just wounded now, but they are not so serious," he said.

The U.N. brokered truce seemed to be holding. Despite charges from each side that the other had violated the truce, none of the incidents appeared to mark a return to full-scale hostilities.

Sarajevo Radio said the Bosnian capital was calm overnight and there had only been sporadic violations across Bosnia.

Commanders of Bosnia's warring Serb, Croat and Muslim forces are due to meet at Sarajevo Airport on April 6 under the Chairmanship of the head of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, to discuss how to stop fighting.

The Muslims and the Croats have signed a peace plan drawn up by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, but the Bosnian Serbs have said they cannot accept the way it divides Bosnia.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali urged the Security Council Monday to approve the U.N.-mediated peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina and call on Bosnian Serbs to sign it.

In a report to the Security Council on the latest round of peace talks that ended Thursday at the United Nations, Dr. Ghali also recommended that international human rights monitors be sent to Bosnia, where there have been widespread reports of atrocities linked to "ethnic cleansing" campaigns.

In his report, Dr. Ghali said any moves to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia, toughen sanctions against Serbia or place U.N. military observers around the former Yugoslav republics border should be accompanied by "the Security Council's unequivocal endorsement of the peace package."

"It strongly urge the Security Council to approve the whole peace package and to call upon the Bosnian Serbs to sign," he said.

2 Serbs sentenced to death in Bosnia

A Bosnian war crimes court sentenced two Bosnian Serb soldiers Tuesday to death by firing squad for murder, rape and robbery during the civil war in the former Yugoslav republic.

Borislav Herak, 22, who admitted raping 16 Muslim women and killing 11 of them, told the judges: "I have deserved this."

Co-defendant Sretko Damjanovic, 31, said he would appeal. He claimed that a confession he made to Muslim authorities after his arrest was beaten out of him.

Both men were fighters in the Bosnian Serb army which has besieged Sarajevo for almost a year. They were arrested when they stumbled on a Muslim checkpoint in the city last November.

The authorities charged them with genocide as agents of a systematic effort to create "pure" Serb areas by raping and murdering Muslim women, executing Muslim civilians and looting and burning their properties.

Amato to stay until new government found

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato will not resign unless a new government can be found to take the place of his discredited four-party coalition, state television said Tuesday.

The Socialist premier spent the morning in talks with state President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to try to resolve the crisis surrounding Italy's scandal-tainted government.

The meeting, which included Senate Speaker Giovanni Spadolini and Chamber of Deputies (lower house) speaker Giorgio Napolitano, broke for lunch around 1230 (GMT). No statements were issued.

Socialist Deputy Enrico Manca said earlier Mr. Amato would put his job at Mr. Scalfaro's disposal.

Analysts expect the president to ask the two speakers to see if they can form a broad-based government of consensus to tide the country through until electoral reforms can be passed and new elections held, probably in October.

"The time has come for the president of the republic to take the necessary initiatives in the situation," Mr. Manca added.

Mr. Manca was one of a group of Socialists who met with the prime minister on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile Italian magistrates say they have been given testimony that former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, a major figure in the country's post-war politics, was known almost affectionately to the mafia as "uncle."

A 246-page report by Palermo magistrates discards hearsay evidence that Mr. Andreotti had undergone an initiation ceremony as a member of the mafia but accuses him of links to *cosa nostra* "from at least 1978... certainly to 1992."

Mr. Andreotti himself strongly denies the accusations and says he is the victim of mafia revenge ordered because of firm action his last government took against organised crime.

On Tuesday a Senate jury was due to start sifting through the grateful of documents sent by the magistrates. Mr. Andreotti, seven times premier, is a life member of the upper house of parliament.

Mr. Andreotti, in a column written for the Italian magazine *Europeo*, Tuesday strongly declared his innocence.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton nominates AID chief

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has nominated former State Department Assistant Secretary Brian Atwood as head of the Agency for International Development (AID). "I am confident that he will be the kind of effective administrator that our foreign assistance programmes need at this time," Mr. Clinton said in a statement. "His proven effectiveness and his commitment to democratic change make him an ideal choice."

Mr. Atwood served as assistant secretary of state for congressional relations during the administration of former President Jimmy Carter. Since 1985 he headed the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a political development group.

Azeris launch new Karabakh offensive

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia Tuesday said Azeri forces had launched a major attack to try to recapture a strip of land leading to the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. A spokesman for the Azeri Defence Ministry dismissed the report as "nonsense" and said Armenian forces had seized 10 Azeri villages along the border between the two republics. Local journalists in Nagorno-Karabakh said the Azeri army was trying to cut the Lachin supply corridor, which leads from Armenia into the mountainous territory. "The Azeri army is using tanks and artillery — fierce battles are raging. The Karabakh Self-Defence Forces are trying to repel them," one journalist said.

'Little chance of IRA ceasefire'

DUBLIN (R) — The leader of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing said he sees little chance of the guerrilla group agreeing to a unilateral ceasefire in the Northern Ireland conflict. Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said he would not call on the IRA to halt one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts which has claimed more than 3,000 lives since 1969. He told the Irish Times in an interview published Tuesday: "It would tell the IRA would not agree. I see little chance of the IRA unilaterally deciding to stop." The IRA has been hit by a backlash of revulsion after it killed two children in a bomb blast in the English town of Warrington. Up to 20,000 people joined a protest rally in Dublin Sunday to plead "give peace a chance."

Meanwhile a convicted IRA killer was found guilty Monday of murdering a policeman and the attempted murder of three others. Paul Magee shot constable Glenn Cusack, 37, twice in the chest at point-blank range when police stopped his car for a routine check last June. Mr. Magee, 45, was convicted of trying to kill Goodman's partner, Constable Alexander Kelly, 40, in a separate incident shortly afterwards, of trying to kill Constables Mark Whitehouse and Susan Larkin.

2 leaders of Tajik Popular Front killed

MOSCOW (R) — The two main leaders of Tajikistan's Popular Front, which propelled the Central Asian republic's new leadership to power late last year, have been killed in mysterious circumstances. The press secretary at Tajikistan's embassy in Moscow Tuesday said Popular Front leader Sangak Safarov and his deputy Fazlul Saidov — who had argued bitterly over the movement's aims — were killed overnight. "Yes, it is true, they are dead, but I have no further details," Rakhim Hasanov said in a telephone interview. ITAR-TASS News Agency published conflicting reports from the republic which said the two men had either died in a car crash or in a fight.

6 die in Thai Air Force crash

BANGKOK (R) — A Thai Air Force Boeing 737 jetliner sometimes used by the Thai royal family crashed in northeast Thailand Tuesday, killing six people. Officials at Khon Kaen Airport said the dead were five Thai Air Force officers and an unidentified male Caucasian. The officials said the aircraft, which the air force bought from national carrier Thai Airways International Ltd, failed to regain altitude shortly after its pilot radioed that he had technical problems. The Boeing plunged on to an empty field about 10 kilometres from the airport about two minutes before its scheduled landing. It was on a familiarisation flight between Bangkok and Khon Kaen.

Clinton to try to convince Americans on Russian aid

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Even before an aid package for Russia is completed, President Bill Clinton is taking on the job of persuading Americans it will be money well spent.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher planned to make the case for the aid to a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Tuesday.

Foreign aid is usually unpopular with both the public and Congress. And this is a year of budget squeeze and impending tax increases.

Still, Mr. Clinton said Monday in Little Rock, Ark., he would try to convince Americans that "we've got a big interest" in helping Russia to keep President Boris Yeltsin's reforms alive.

"My job as president is to convince the citizens of this country that they have an immediate and personal interest in the outcome of events," the president said. "I think I can do it and I'm

going to do my best."

Mr. Clinton will hold a two-day summit with Mr. Yeltsin in Vancouver, Canada, beginning Saturday.

The president was in Little Rock with his wife, Hillary, Her 81-year-old father, Hugh Rodham, was in critical condition after a stroke suffered earlier this month.

The White House said Mr. Clinton was reviewing a lengthy memo from Anthony Lake, his National Security Assistant, on summit issues and preparation for the Yeltsin meeting.

Speaking briefly with reporters, Mr. Clinton said the United States gives "a lot more money than we give to Russia to smaller countries."

Israel is the largest recipient of aid, \$3 billion annually in economic and military assistance, followed by Egypt, which gets \$2.1 billion. Mr. Christopher already has given assurances that aid

would not be trimmed.

The administration plans to increase aid to Russia and other former Soviet republics to more than \$700 million in fiscal 1994, up from \$417 million this year. The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that Mr. Clinton was considering an additional \$1 billion for Moscow. U.S. officials neither confirmed nor denied the story.

Told that polls show that 75 per cent of Americans believe Russia is getting enough aid from the United States, Mr. Clinton said, "well, foreign aid is unpopular in every country in the world, and it's always been unpopular here."

"The American people are smart enough to know that we can't determine the course of events in Russia all by ourselves. They know that. But we can have an impact on it," he added.

President Clinton Monday received enthusiastic support for his approach to Russia from an old foe — former Secretary of State James Baker — but also got warned about being dragged into Bosnia's civil war.

Mr. Baker, who resigned as secretary of state to become White House chief of staff and to direct former President George Bush's failed re-election campaign, told the Cable News Network (CNN) that Mr. Clinton is "absolutely right" in support of Mr. Yeltsin.

In his first interview since leaving office on Jan. 20, Mr. Baker endorsed U.S. aid to Russia, which Mr. Clinton has promised to increase, although the former secretary stressed that "there's a limit as to what we can do."

Mr. Baker rejected criticism that Mr. Clinton is sticking to Mr. Yeltsin too closely while the Russian leader weathers a political siege at home.

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Eastwood wins Oscars for himself and the western as art form

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood finally made Clint Eastwood's day at the Academy Awards Monday, landing him Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director for his tough guy western, *Unforgiven*.

For Eastwood, the double-barrel Oscar was both a personal triumph and in his words recognition and respectability for the western as an American art form.

Veteran actor Al Pacino, who like Eastwood was snubbed for decades by Oscar voters, also finally got his due, breaking a 20-year losing streak, to win the Best Actor Award for his role as a blind and embittered retired

army officer in Columbia Pictures' *Scent of a Woman*.

Lending a nihil-British invasion to the Academy Awards, was Emma Thompson, a first-rising star of screen and stage, who won the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in the lush Edwardian romance *Howards End*.

Once dismissed by critics as a tight-lipped "spaghetti western" actor who let his six-shooters do the talking, Eastwood at last won critical acclaim for *Unforgiven*, a movie that repudiates the myth of the violent outlaw hero he helped create.

Unforgiven was the night's highest winner. It scooped up Academy Awards for Best Pic-

ture, Best Director (Eastwood), Best Supporting Actor (Gene Hackman) and Best Film Editing.

Eastwood told reporters that he did not think some of his earlier box-office hits deserved an Oscar but he believed his more recent films were overdue for recognition.

"But at that time the Academy wasn't ready to recognise an American art form, the western," he said.

Eastwood, 62, one of the world's highest box-office draws, produced the film under the Warner Bros. Studio umbrella and starred in it. "This is pretty good. This is all right," he told the audience after receiving the director's award.

Moments later, when the actor returned for his second accolade, his voice quaked with emotion. "This is just the wonderful one," he said.

Eastwood, whose mulleted taut "make my day" in a 1983 Dirty Harry detective movie became the catchphrase of the decade, was a popular winner. He received lengthy standing ovations each time he walked to the podium.

Pacino, who had been nominated six times before without an Oscar win to his credit, was ecstatically grateful. "You broke my streak," he said. "Thanks so much for this."

Thompson, a first-time Oscar nominee who had already picked up a half-dozen other best-actress honours since Christmas, was the odds-on favourite to win as a pair of independent British productions made their mark.

Howards End, produced by Merchant Ivory Productions and distributed by Sony Pictures Classics, was the top performer of the up-and-coming arthouse sensations, also taking Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Art Direction.

As presenters and winners stepped on to centre stage in the film's industry's biggest, glitziest annual show, politics intruded on the ceremony in a way not seen since the 1970s.

Speaking before a TV audience of more than one billion, actor Richard Gere — a Buddhist who for years has supported Tibetan independence — launched a scathing attack on Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and his country's

human rights record.

Elizabeth Taylor made an emotional plea for better treatment for AIDS sufferers. Thompson and others called on Hollywood to come up with better roles for women.

"This is the year of the woman, when better roles are supposed to be being created for women. But this has been one of the worst years since celluloid was invented for women," Thompson told reporters after the awards.

The 33-year-old Thompson, who is married to British actor and director Kenneth Branagh, said: "I would like...to dedicate this Oscar to the heroism and courage of women and I hope it will inspire the creation of more true screen heroines to represent them."

Susan Sarandon and her companion, Tim Robbins, called for fair treatment of HIV-infected Haitian refugees, and Barbara Trent, co-producer of the Oscar-winning documentary *The Panama Deception*, called for improved human rights in Panama.

The politically charged remarks were reminiscent of the 1970s, when performers such as Marlon Brando and Vanessa Redgrave used the Oscar podium to push their favourite causes.

Newcomer Marisa Tomei stunned Hollywood by winning an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role as a fast-talking mechanical whiz in the comedy *My Cousin Vinny*.

Tomei was the upset winner in a field that included far more experienced performers — three from Britain, Juan Plazwright (Enchanted April), Vanessa Redgrave (Howards End) and Miranda Richardson (Damage), and one from Australia, Judy Davis (Husbands and Wives).

Gene Hackman won his first Oscar in 22 years, taking the Best Supporting Actor Award for his portrayal of a sheriff gone bad in *Unforgiven*. He last won an Oscar for Best Actor in the 1971 blockbuster *The French Connection*.

Though he originally turned down the role as the sadistic lawman Little Bill, Eastwood convinced the 63-year-old actor he was perfect for the part in the Warner Bros. film.

With the announcement of the Supporting Actor prize, one of

Hollywood's worst-kept secrets was all but out of the bag.

Ever since the nominations were announced, Miramax Films, distributors of the Anglo-Irish suspense thriller *The Crying Game*, had lobbied feverishly behind the scenes to keep journalists from revealing its surprise plot twist.

Jaye Davidson had been nominated for Best Supporting Actor for playing the beautiful and sexually enigmatic hairdresser Dil in the film set in Northern Ireland and London.

Indochine, the French film about France's crumbling colonial empire in South East Asia that starred Catherine Deneuve, won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Neil Jordan took top honours for Best Original Screenplay for the *Crying Game*, a \$4 million film that has set box-office records for an independent production.

Columbia Picture's *A Few Good Men*, a big-budget movie that has struck gold at the box office, was shut out in its quest



U.S. actor Clint Eastwood holds up his two Oscars at the 65th Annual Academy Awards. Eastwood won for Best Director and Best Picture for *Unforgiven* (AFP photo)



U.S. actor Al Pacino (right) poses with British actress Emma Thompson after winning respectively the Oscars for Best Actor and Best Actress. Pacino won for his performance in *Scent of a Woman* and Thompson for *Howards End* (AFP photo)

for Oscar gold. It had four nominations, including best picture, but failed to win a single award.

"I thought we had a chance," Director Rob Reiner told a local station. "But it didn't turn out that way."

U.S. actor Gene Hackman (left) and U.S. actress Marisa Tomei pose with their Oscars shortly after being respectively awarded for Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress. Hackman won for his role in *Unforgiven* and Tomei for *My Cousin Vinny* (AFP photo)



COLUMN

Airliner makes emergency landing for childbirth

NICOSIA (AP) — A British Airways Boeing 747 made an emergency stop in Larnaca Tuesday when a baby boy made an early entry into the world, the Cyprus News Agency reported. The agency said BA Flight 126, en route from Kuwait to London, landed in Larnaca at 4:50 a.m. (0150 GMT) after 31-year-old Roudayna Al Kadeeb, who was 8 months pregnant, went into labour. She was rushed to the hospital and delivered a healthy baby weighing 3 kilos (6.6 pounds), the agency said. The boy is eligible for Cypriot citizenship, the news agency noted. It said his mother is of Palestinian origin.

Going up in world's fastest lift

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese company said Tuesday it has developed a lift that will operate at speeds of 811 metres (2,660 feet) a minute, making it the fastest skyscraper elevator in the world. The lift is designed for a new generation of buildings up to 500 metres (1,640 feet) high that could spring up in Japan over the next decade or so, a spokesman for electrical company Hitachi Ltd. said. These lifts need fast lifts so passengers do not get bored on long rides and Hitachi hopes to sell 100 to 200 of them over the next decade. The world's fastest elevator is in a South African coal mine and operates at up to 1,196 metres a minute. The fastest used in a building are the 600 metre (2,000 foot) a minute lifts in the 240-metre (790-foot) sunshine 60 building in Tokyo, according to the Guinness Book of Records.

Number of Japanese elderly hits post-war peak

TOKYO (R) — Japan's population is growing at its slowest rate since World War II and the number of elderly people has hit a post-war peak, government estimates showed. The number of Japanese on Oct. 1, 1992, stood at an estimated 124,450,000, up just 0.33 per cent from the previous year, the Management and Coordination Agency said Tuesday. Japanese aged 65 or over made up 13 per cent of the population, while the number of under-14s slipped to the lowest recorded level of 17 per cent, underlining the rapid greying of Japanese society. Japanese men numbered about 61 million against 63.3 million women, the figures showed. Among cities, Tokyo's population totalled nearly 12 million and the second largest city, Osaka, had 8.7 million. Economists are concerned about the effects of the rapidly ageing population on economic growth and an already serious labour shortage. According to a recent study by the Japan Medical Association (JMA), more than one in four Japanese will be over 65 by the year 2025, making the nation the world's greyest society. The projected 27 per cent of Japanese who will be over 65 by 2025 compares with 23 per cent for Germany, 20 per cent for the United States and 19 per cent for Britain, United Nations statistics show.

Farrow likens life with Allen to Gaslight

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Mia Farrow testified that her estranged lover, Woody Allen, often twisted the facts when the two were having problems in their relationship, prompting her to begin secretly taping their conversations. In her third day on the stand at a child custody hearing, Farrow said she started making the recordings last August in response to his denials that he had sexually abused their seven-year-old adopted daughter. "It was like the movie *Gaslight*," she said. In that 1939 film, a woman is driven mad by her older husband, who alters their surroundings and tells her the problem is in her mind.

Year without day off 'not overwork'

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Labour Office ruled that a middle-aged supermarket attendant who died of a haemorrhage after working 360 days in a row was not a victim of "karoshi", or death from overwork. Kyodo News Service, quoted officials of the Tsuyama Labour Standards Inspection Office in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, as saying the 43-year-old man was not sick seven days before his death, as specified by the law, and therefore his family was not entitled to compensation under the Karoshi scheme.